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Valerie Harper takes SF
Plays 'Allergist's Wife' in
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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 32 • 8 August 2002

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Viagra usage remains high among gay men, survey says

by Matthew S. Bajko

Despite repeated warnings from health officials about the dangers of mixing Viagra with other party drugs, and the worry that such use leads to increased unsafe sex, gay men do not appear to be heeding those prevention messages.

Viagra use in combination with other drugs continues to remain high among gay men in San Francisco, according to a new survey to be discussed later this month at a community forum.

Last fall, outreach workers from the Stop AIDS Project asked men who have sex with men and were at least 18 years old about their experiences using Viagra. According to the survey, out of the 846 respondents, 32 percent said they have used Viagra, an erectile dysfunction drug manufactured by Pfizer.

The latest survey results show that usage of Viagra among gay men remains consistent with earlier studies. One survey of 844 males conducted at the city's sexually transmitted disease clinic found that 32 percent of the gay men had used Viagra during a 12 month period between 2000 and 2001.

More alarming is the number of men who said they had used Viagra, which lowers blood pressure, with other drugs such as amyl nitrates, or poppers, that increase blood pressure. Studies have shown that such a combination can lead to heart attacks and strokes.

Of the 273 men who said they had used Viagra, 18 percent said they had used it in conjunction with using poppers. Viagra's own packaging contains a warning not to combine the two drugs.

"Those numbers are really high," said Shana Krochmal, spokeswoman for the Stop AIDS Project. "If you are not going to take one drug on Viagra, it should be poppers. There is an on-label warning not to use Viagra with amyl nitrates."

The community forum, entitled "Viagra: Miracle or Menace," aims to present the data to the community and determine if recreational Viagra use contributes to higher levels of unprotected sex. While the data was presented at the XIV International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, it will be presented for the first time to a U.S. audience during next week's meeting.

"We are not bringing a harm reduction model to the meeting. We want to bring everyone together in the same room and say let's talk about it and see what needs to be done," said Krochmal.

While the survey results have yet to be officially published, the data al-

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Do you know this person?

Authorities seek information in unsolved 1983 murder

by Zak Szymanski

Nineteen years ago, authorities believe that a young biological male was picked up in San Francisco and driven down the Coastal Highway to Pillar Point on Ocean Beach in San Mateo County, where s/he was brutally beaten and stabbed to death.

What law enforcement officials and anti-violence advocates don't know, however, is the identity of the person, whose remains were found shortly after his/her murder on November 25, 1983. They also don't know whether anyone in San Francisco is still looking for this missing person, or whether this person was a member of the LGBT community.

The unsolved case was brought to the attention of Tina D'Elia, hate violence survivor program director at Community United Against Violence, by FBI Special Agent Gordon Thomas, who thought that San Francisco's LGBT community may have information about this crime victim.

The victim, about 22 years old, was dressed in female clothes, including yellow knee-length "clam digger" pants, a matching yellow jacket, fishnet stockings, lace panties, and a bra with sponge falsies.

The victim was white, stood a little over



Photo of what an unidentified 1983 murder victim may have looked like.

70 inches tall, weighed 140 pounds, and had hazel eyes and short brown hair. The photograph released by the Federal Bureau of Investigations is a clay reconstruction of what the victim may have looked like. An artist's

sketch is also on file, and full fingerprints and dental charts are available.

Thomas did not return repeated calls from the Bay Area Reporter seeking additional information on the case, including why authorities believe the victim was taken from San Francisco to the murder site. The current location of the victim's remains is also unknown.

"What's interesting about this case is that this person could have been a trans youth, could have been a cross dresser, could have been in drag. There's no information," said D'Elia, whose work with the Bay Area Hate Crimes Investigator Association brought her in contact with the case.

The case has been stalled for years, said D'Elia, in part because an investigator assigned to the crime 10 years ago has since passed away. CUAV only found out about the case in May.

"It's a very sad situation," said D'Elia. "There is always that possibility that somebody will know who this is, that somebody out there just wants to know what happened, and is seeking some type of closure. My heart goes out to whoever knows who this person might be."

Anyone with information about a missing person who fits the above description should call Agent Thomas at (510) 251-4156 or D'Elia at (415) 777-5500, ext. 304. ▼

Stop AIDS Project faces federal probe of its programs

by Matthew S. Bajko

A year after the Stop AIDS Project faced questions concerning its programming from federal Health and Human Services inspectors, the San Francisco nonprofit now faces questioning from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Newly appointed CDC director Dr. Julie Gerberding, who is on leave as a professor at the University of California, San Francisco, informed the agency last week that she was sending a CDC team to assess whether the agency's programs are "scientifically sound" and in compliance with federal funding guidelines. The team is expected to be in town Monday, August 12 and Tuesday, August 13 to speak to staff and examine the agency's materials.

"I feel confident they are going to come and look at our programs and be really impressed with the work we are able to do here," said Shana Krochmal, a spokeswoman for the Stop AIDS Project. "I think our work speaks for itself."

Last fall the inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services concluded that the agency had misused federal HIV prevention funds and violated federal laws and guidelines. In her report, Inspector General Janet Rehnquist said some of the information presented in the agency's workshops could be construed as "encouraging... sexual activity" and as "obscene."

Despite the report, the CDC continued to fund the project and during a visit in the spring, former White House AIDS czar Scott



Stop AIDS Project's David Evans

Evertz applauded the agency's work.

The latest workshops to cause calls for scrutiny were two "Great Sex" workshops held in July. The first focused on flirting and dating, with promotional materials telling participants they could learn how to "negotiate safe sex and talk about what you are looking for in a date."

Another workshop, called "Great Sex 4: Different Strokes," advertised that men were invited to "join this exploration of the joys of JO - the safest sex known to man."

While the programs are reviewed and approved at the local level, critics say the mate-

rials violate federal standards for such programs. Under guidelines revised in 1992, CDC funds are prohibited from supporting "education or information designed to promote or encourage, directly, homosexual or heterosexual sexual activity or intravenous substance abuse."

Krochmal said the programs are based on "sound prevention science" and did not violate any federal guidelines.

"The Stop AIDS project does not promote sex. We target sexually active men in San

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LGBT Elders confab expected to draw crowd

by Zak Szymanski

Young, old, gay, straight, and all types of people are expected later this month at the second annual LGBT Elders conference, which coincides with East Bay Pride.

This year's conference theme, "Creating a Caring Community," seeks to eliminate the barriers faced by LGBT elders by providing education and networking opportunities through workshops, discussions, and social events. The groundbreaking gathering—which attracted more than 100 participants last year and is expected to grow—takes place Thursday, August 29 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church at 685 14th Street, in Oakland.

"It's going to be great," said Marion Abdullah, a conference organizer. "What is really unique is that just about every elder group in the area is a part of this, so a lot more people will know

about it this year."

Participating organizations include Spectrum in Marin County; Lavender Seniors and Women Over Fifty and Friends, which are both in San Leandro; the Bay Area-based Old Lesbians Organizing for Change; and San Francisco's National Center for Lesbian Rights and New Leaf Outreach to Elders.

The morning of August 29 begins with "Our Stories/Our Needs," a speakers' panel aimed at giving elder caregivers and providers an accurate and diverse picture of the older gay community, and training providers to recognize ways they can make their services more accessible and welcoming to LGBT seniors.

A hot catered lunch includes entertainment provided by folk singer Ronnie Gilbert, formerly of the Weavers. "Put It In Writing" is an afternoon legal workshop for LGBT seniors that addresses wills, end-of-life care issues, and domestic partnership; NCLR will

sponsor a notary public to provide couples with domestic partner registrations for the state registry (bring the \$10 state fee and ID). And another afternoon workshop, "Where Are We Going to Live?" will focus on housing needs and includes participation from San Francisco's LGBT senior residence project, Rainbow Adult Community Housing.

The conference is also an opportunity "get together, see old friends, and meet new ones," according to Abdullah.

Conference registration is \$20 by August 15 and \$25 thereafter, and scholarships are still available. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

The LGBT Elders conference is sponsored by Progressive Research and Training for Action, and more information, including a full schedule of events and registration form, can be found at www.prtanonline.org or by calling (510) 705-8918. ▽

Ammiano moves ahead with alternative homeless pay cut

by Zak Szymanski

Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano this week reiterated his intention to put an alternative homeless cash reduction measure on the November ballot. At press time, the exact language of his intended measure was not clear, but his office told the *Bay Area Reporter* that it would be filed as of 5 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7.

Ammiano would reportedly file a ballot measure similar to Supervisor Gavin Newsom's "Care Not Cash" initiative, which would replace the bulk of the money given through the city's general assis-

tance program with food, housing, and health services. But Newsom's plan—supported by 74 percent of San Francisco voters, according to a recent poll by the Chinese American Voters Education Committee—would reduce the maximum \$395 monthly checks to the homeless to \$59 a month, while Ammiano's proposal may allow up to \$90 a month, according to a report in last week's *San Francisco Examiner*.

Ammiano has announced his plans to run for mayor in 2003; Newsom is a likely mayoral candidate.

So far, some people have been critical of Ammiano's similar but more generous plan.

"Ammiano fought Gavin New-

som on the Care Not Cash initiative every step of the way," said one poster on the craigslist.org political message board. "Only now, when he sees the writing on the wall and realizes that there is overwhelming public support for Care Not Cash, is he trying to come up with his own plan."

Ammiano's office refused comment on the matter until after the initiative was filed.

It remains to be seen whether a slightly more generous alternative to Newsom's plan would attract more liberal voters who are tired of alleged welfare system abuses but still perceive themselves as at least \$30 a month more compassionate than Newsom's proposal. ▽

Horizons grant proposals due soon

by Zak Szymanski

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender programs and groups are often in need of additional resources for their specific projects and events. That's why the Horizons Foundation—the grant-making organization that gives money to emerging LGBT efforts throughout the Bay Area—is once again calling for the submission of proposals for its "Community Issues" grant cycle. The application deadline is Tuesday, August 13.

Grants are awarded in the amount of up to \$10,000 per proposal and are made in the areas of arts and culture; advocacy and civil rights; children, youth, and families; elders; and health and human services.

Applicants must be a nonprofit organization or have nonprofit fiscal sponsorship; must serve one or more of the nine Bay Area counties; and must be requesting funding for a specific program or activity that benefits LGBT people. Grants cannot be used for costs incurred prior to the date of the grant award, for construction

or renovation; for fundraising event sponsorship; or for projects that directly benefit an individual.

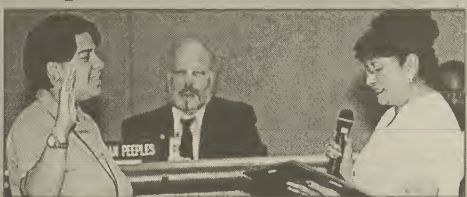
Horizons has not yet decided how much money will be granted. Last year, the foundation received 111 proposals and funded 31 of those projects.

The application process is complex; instructions can be

found online at www.horizonsfoundation.org and questions can be directed to dkirchoff@horizonsfoundation.org.

All applications must be received by the Horizons Foundation offices by the postmark deadline of Tuesday, August 13. Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be considered. ▽

Kaplan sworn in



Rebecca Kaplan, left, was sworn in during a public ceremony to a seat on the AC Transit Board of Directors last Thursday, August 1, as board member Christian Peoples, background, looks on. Kaplan, an Oakland lesbian and grassroots activist, actually started work on the East Bay bus board after her appointment in late May, when she was sworn in immediately to fill a vacancy. She plans to run for election to the seat in November.



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Frontiers newsmagazine ends its SF edition

by Cynthia Laird

The number of LGBT publications in San Francisco decreased this week, as *Frontiers* has ceased publication of its San Francisco edition effective today (Thursday, August 8).

Frontiers, published by Mercury Capital Publishing Inc., whose corporate office is in Los Angeles, will continue publishing its flagship L.A. edition. The newsmagazine launched its San Francisco edition on May 1, 1994.

Ralph Hyman, managing director for Mercury Capital, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the decision to shut down the San Francisco edition was made by publisher Connie Craig last Wednesday, July 31. He said employees in the San Francisco office were also told that day.

Hyman and Marcus-Jay Wonacott, senior editor of the San Francisco edition, said that employees at the San Francisco office will receive a severance package. Hyman declined to provide specifics of the compensation.

"I'm saddened, and disappointed," Wonacott said. "I believe we offered something of worth. We never saw ourselves as a competitor to the *B.A.R.* We offered something different."

Wonacott had been senior editor for a little over one year; before that he served as assistant editor for two years. Prior to working at *Frontiers*, Wonacott served as the managing editor of *Drummer* magazine and worked as general manager for Brush Creek Media.

Wonacott said that the reason for pulling the plug on the San Francisco edition of the LGBT publication was economic and resulted



Frontiers staff members, from left: Jim Hunger, Tim Kingston, Marcus-Jay Wonacott, Christopher Ambridge, and Brian Klies.

from a decline in advertising sales.

"A lot of queer businesses in town have been sorely affected by the economy and what happens to them happens to us," he said. "I'm not surprised there was a trickle down effect."

Hyman said that should economic conditions improve in the Bay Area, corporate officials would look at starting the San Francisco edition up again.

Tim Kingston, news editor of the San Francisco edition, told the *B.A.R.* on Monday, August 5 that there were a lot of good things about the paper.

"It was nice having a progressive voice in the queer press," Kingston said, adding that he was particularly proud of his articles dealing with the Middle East conflict and September 11.

Kingston, who worked at *Frontiers* for five years, said his future plans include writing, but he was uncertain as to specifics. He first plans to take some time off and travel.

Wonacott also plans time for relaxation.

"My immediate plans are to just chill for awhile. I'm not worried. I'm very grateful for the time I've had here. We did something good professionally and I look at this as a beginning, not an end," he explained.

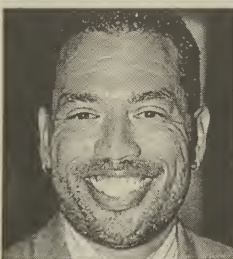
The decision to close *Frontiers* leaves the LGBT community with the weekly *B.A.R.*, the biweekly *San Francisco Bay Times*, and the monthly *Spectrum*. The *San Francisco Sentinel* ceased publication in the mid-1990s. *Frontiers* was started in Los Angeles in 1982 by the late Bob Craig, who died in April 2000.

On Monday, while attending a campaign event for Supervisor Mark Leno's Assembly bid, Kingston and Wonacott told some people about the magazine's closure, many of whom were surprised at the news. Even more surprising to Steve Morin, director of the University of California, San Francisco's AIDS Research Center, was that the *B.A.R.* would be writing about it.

"Does Macy's cover Gimbel's?" Morin asked, as Wonacott and Kingston burst into laughter. ▼

Director at Black Coalition on AIDS steps down

by Zak Szymanski



BCA's Duane Poe

It's an old joke, according to Duane Poe, executive director of the Black Coalition on AIDS: the years spent as an executive director of a nonprofit should actually be calculated as dog years. That's how much time and work goes into the job.

And that's why Poe, 45, announced at the end of last month that after six years (42 in dog years), he will be leaving his posi-

tion at BCA.

"It's challenging, rewarding, stressful work," Poe told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "After having done this for the past six years, I'm interested in working in some different areas. My work at BCA has really informed my thinking around health disparities in a greater way, and I am interested to look at health care and access from not only race and sexual orientation but from class, educational, geographic, and neighborhood."

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Leno energized for Assembly campaign

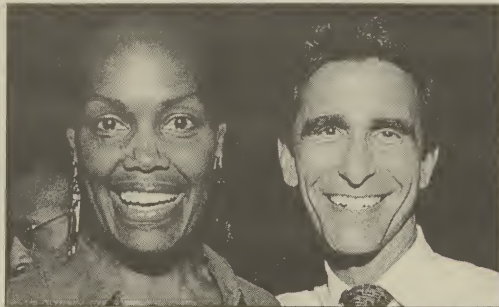
by Cynthia Laird

Nearly 300 people turned out Monday, August 5 to applaud San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno's March victory in the Democratic primary for the 13th Assembly District and to support what many observers expect to be an easy victory in the November general election.

The 13th Assembly District is heavily Democratic and Leno faces minimal opposition from a Republican candidate, Gail Neira. Given the demographics of the district, Leno is expected to become the first openly gay man elected to the state Assembly.

The seat is being vacated by lesbian Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D), who cannot run again because of term limits. She is running for a seat on the state Board of Equalization.

Another gay man, former Santa Cruz Mayor John Laird, is poised to win the 27th District As-



Supervisors Sophie Maxwell, left, and Mark Leno at Monday's event.

sembly race and join Leno in Sacramento.

"It was a long, hard road to get here," Leno said at the event, which was held at Mecca Restaurant. "We won, and I'm very proud of that fact."

Leno prevailed in a bruising primary race against openly gay former Supervisor Harry Britt,

lesbian Holli Thier, and former school board member Steve Phillips. Monday, Phillips was on hand at the event, as were Supervisors Sophie Maxwell, Chris Daly, Gavin Newsom, and Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano. Treasurer Susan Leal was present, along with several

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Pot bust turns into financial boon for two charities

by Matthew S. Bajko

Two San Francisco charities serving people with HIV and AIDS will receive a portion of the money seized during a 1996 raid on the former San Francisco Cannabis Buyer's Club, according to people familiar with the deal sealed in Alameda County Superior Court.

Project Open Hand, which serves nearly 20,000 meals a month and delivers groceries to 2,200 clients living with HIV/AIDS, will receive a majority of the \$63,137.98 impounded when law enforcement agents raided Dennis Peron's medical marijuana club on Market Street in August 1996.

In a deal struck between Peron and the state attorney general's office, the AIDS Emergency Fund, which provides emergency assistance to people living with HIV and AIDS, will receive \$5,000. Another \$2,500 will go to pay for the cannabis club's attorney fees.

The rest of the money — about \$55,000 — will go to Project Open Hand, which the court sanctioned as an appropriate, neutral third party.

"It came from patients, so it is only right it should go back to them," Peron told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I never wanted the money so I am glad to give it to Project Open Hand and the AIDS Emergency Fund."

Tom Nolan, Project Open Hand's executive director, said the nonprofit agency was surprised but elated to be receiving the much needed money.

"It's God's will I guess," said Nolan, whose agency this year had to layoff staff and cut employees' salaries due to a budget deficit. "What I understand is we got it as a result of an agreement between the attorney general and Dennis Peron. The judge in the case said it was up to them to pick someone and we were chosen. We really had nothing to do with it."

Last week, the agency received

official confirmation from the attorney general's office that it would receive the funds. Nolan said the money will go toward the client meal program but will not receive its check until the state budget is passed.

"We have many more clients. We did about 100,000 more meals this year than the year before," he said. "This will pay for 10,000 meals; it's about \$5 a meal roughly."

Although it was Peron's intention to give all the money to AEF, he said he was forced by the attorney general to designate another agency for the funding.

"The attorney general thought AEF was in on the club so they wouldn't let me give it to them," Peron said.

But a spokeswoman for the attorney general said because AEF had made a claim for money in the case, prosecutors wanted to instead designate a neutral third party that was not involved in the lawsuit.

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Volume 32, Number 32
8 August 2002

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Oops, he did it again

Texas Rangers pitcher John Rocker was back in the spotlight this week when reports surfaced that he made homophobic comments – again! A couple of years ago the former Braves pitcher was quoted in a *Sports Illustrated* interview making disparaging comments about gays, people living with AIDS, and minorities. This time, however, he can't blame the media or whine that he was misquoted because his comments at a popular Dallas eatery frequented by gays were heard by witnesses.

In other words, Rocker and his defenders in the Rangers organization can't spin this one, although they're desperately trying. This time it was no accident.

According to published reports, Rocker and his girlfriend were at Breadwinners Cafe & Bakery, Richard Garcia, who waited on the couple, said the ballplayer was not provoked when Rocker called a male couple sitting at a nearby table "fruitcakes." Garcia said there were several gay couples sitting at tables near Rocker. Garcia said that Rocker got into another confrontation (which he did not witness) with a group of gay and transgender people in the parking lot. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation released a statement that Rocker was quoted telling the group, "I hope you die of AIDS, I hope you cease to exist."

"Rocker's made homophobic and racist remarks in Atlanta, Cleveland, and now Dallas. The rule in baseball is three strikes and you're out. It's time to see that rule applied," said GLAAD's John Songeo.

While Rocker issued a written statement admitting he "said some things I probably should not have said," he said he was badgered and baited by nearby patrons. He calls that an apology.

We think Rocker baited patrons when he decided to go to the gay-friendly restaurant in the first place. We believe John Rocker is a homophobe.

And members of the Texas Rangers management are complicit: they're not calling Rocker on his anti-gay comments. "Of course, we do not condone name-calling," said Rangers manager John Hart. "Our general advice to players is to leave a hostile public situation. And that's what he did. It is my opinion that this is a personal issue between

John and the people in the restaurant."

We disagree. And we're not alone.

San Francisco Chronicle columnist C.W. Nevius told us that he doesn't believe this latest Rocker incident was any accident. And he pointed out that Rocker has already been through sensitivity training, apparently to no avail.

"Obviously, he didn't learn a thing from it. Obviously, this was not a mistake. Rocker knows better, Rocker's been taught better. It's not bad luck and it's not an accident. It's his being obstinate and pig-headed," said Nevius.

Whether professional athletes like it or not, they serve as role models, particularly for children and young adults. They're in the spotlight by the very nature of their profession, playing games that are often televised. Many participate in charitable events and have lucrative product endorsement deals, bringing them increased public exposure. Rocker's anti-gay tirades

over the years do nothing to promote tolerance and diversity; on the contrary, they send the message that it's okay to bash gays verbally. Of course, we in the community know too well that verbal attacks spur physical violence against gays, lesbians, and

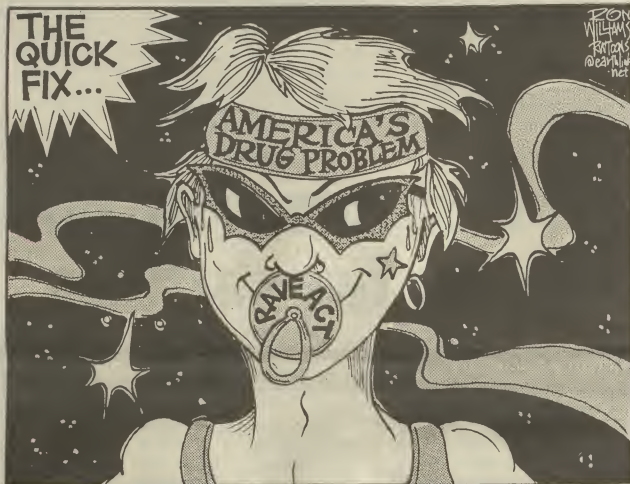
transgenders. We're still being harassed, we're still being beaten, and we're still being killed. Nevius spoke to an East Bay high school football coach who pointed out that kids pay attention to the messenger not the message. Rocker is the messenger.

And it's a dangerous message that he's sending.

If there's a bright spot in this latest episode, it's that Rocker's career has fallen mightily in the last couple of years. He no longer throws a 97 mile-per-hour fastball. "His career is hanging by a thread as it is," Nevius said. And it shows: more than halfway through the baseball season, Rocker and his Texas Rangers are right where they belong – rock bottom in the standings. ▼



Editorial



HOPE isn't a hoax

by Jeff Sheehy

The passage of the Home Ownership Program for Equity (HOPE) initiative on November's ballot could be the best thing that's happened to the LGBT community in years, if a vicious disinformation campaign doesn't succeed in frightening tenants into voting against their best, and possibly last "hope" for securing a place in San Francisco.

The measure allows existing tenants to buy their units from their landlords, and guarantees lifetime leases for those remaining tenants who don't want to buy. The HOPE initiative doesn't kick in until at least 40 percent of the tenants agree to buy in small buildings (two-six units), 33 percent of tenants in larger buildings (seven-12 units), and 25 percent need to buy in large complexes (over 13 units). HOPE is 100 percent voluntary – no one is forced to buy, no one is forced to sell, no one is forced to move.

No building is eligible for sale under HOPE if there have been Ellis Act evictions there in the last 10 years or if the building had an owner move-in eviction in the last five years.

The objections to HOPE that I have heard are absurd. One, by a supe candidate is that "HOPE doesn't create a single new unit of housing." Well, that's a big duh – HOPE isn't meant to create new housing, which is why there is a \$250 million affordable housing bond on November's ballot. Asking the HOPE measure to create new units makes as much sense as requiring the public power measure to create new units. The goal of HOPE is to give tenants greater security through home ownership or lifetime leases.

And with Ellis Act and OMI evictions

continuing to occur on almost a daily basis, tenants could use a bit of protection. HOPE gives building owners a huge incentive not to evict their tenants, but to sell to them.

Another argument has been that condos are too expensive for most tenants – another big duh! It's true that the median price for a condo in San Francisco is \$449,000. However, rental units in 2000 (the peak of the boom) sold for an average cost of \$156,000 – a third of the cost of a condo. The price a tenant can expect to pay will be much closer to the \$156,000 than the \$449,000 simply because the unit cannot become a condo unless the tenant both agrees to buy it, and can afford it.

The next argument is that the units with lifetime leases will lose rent control protection if the tenant moves. First, any unit that is vacated is re-rented at the market rate – we don't have vacancy control that requires the rental price to stay the same.

Second, state Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) has passed legislation amending the Costa-Hawkins Act – the law that prevents rent control from applying to condos. Kuehl, the first out LGBT person elected to the California Senate, is from Santa Monica (one of four cities with rent control) and a strong rent control advocate. She wrote the amendment to support Santa Monica's HOPE law. The amendment specifically exempts buildings that were purchased by tenants in HOPE scenarios and maintains rent control for the remaining leased units.

One more argument is that HOPE will decrease the stock of rental housing. First, if we need more rental units, let's build them.

Let's not force tenants to forgo their best shot at home ownership just so we can have rental units for future generations (whoever that may be, because these units won't be rented cheap). Second, we're losing rental units left and right under the present system. Right now, building owners just Ellis Act their buildings, which not only allows them to sell, but as a consequence, keeps those units off the rental market for 10 years. HOPE discourages Ellis Act evictions.

I suspect that one problem may be that some folks believe in home ownership and some don't. I wrote an op-ed in the *San Francisco Examiner* explaining why I think it's important for the LGBT community to be able to afford to buy homes in SF – you can see it at www.examiner.com. Maybe I'm just not that much of a lefty or a progressive as to

think that home ownership isn't important. But, virtually every LGBT supervisor since Harry Britt has owned a home. At least nine of the 11 current supervisors are homeowners. Even ultra lefty Chris Daly owns a condo – courtesy of a trust fund down payment. For queer folk like me who got the boot from their parents, there isn't going to be down payment help from Mom and Dad, and there sure isn't a trust fund for retirement. HOPE gives us our best shot at getting a home in San Francisco, which means we can get out from under the fear of eviction and we can save something for our future. What's wrong with that? ▼

Jeff Sheehy is a former president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Still learning

Regarding the article, "Q-Force young adult group hits the half-year mark," August 1: What/who the fuck is "intersex"? I am 57 years old and have been out since my early 30s. I have just figured out what "transgender" and "questioning" are, and now I get "intersex"? What happened to simply gay or straight? Am I just hopelessly out-of-date or what?

Richard Wells
Daly City

[Editor's note: Intersex refers to people born with sexual anatomy that features both male and female characteristics or those born an indeterminate sex.]

Plan C responds

With respect to the articles about Plan C's July 24 candidate forum for supervisor candidates in Districts 6 and 8 ["Excluded candidates give Plan C an F" and "Supe candidates square off over HOPE, CNC," and "A wrinkle in Plan C," August 1], I'd like to take a chance to give some background, and also issue a bit of a mea culpa.

The candidate forum was held as part of our regular, every-other-month membership meeting for July. In planning our agenda for our July meeting, we thought that our members would be interested in meeting the supervisor candidates in Districts 6 and 8—two races that are likely to determine the direction of the next Board of Supervisors, and districts where a high percentage (we estimate over 40 percent) of our 500-plus members live. In retrospect, we probably took on too much to try to do both District 6 and District 8 in one night. There are 18 candidates running in these two districts, and given the timing limitations of our regular meetings and the building where we meet (we had roughly one hour, after the normal business of our membership meeting), trying to accommodate all 18 candidates was just not feasible.

If we were to do this over again, we could have done a single-district forum, and heard from all of the candidates. Plan C certainly believes that it's important for our members to hear from multiple points of view. For that reason, we did not screen candidates on the basis of their politics. As evidence of that, we invited both Chris Daly and Eileen Hansen to our forum, although they did not attend (based on multiple communications with Eileen Hansen, I believe she would have attended but for unavoidable conflicts; I can't say why Chris Daly decided not to attend).

We're a new group. Although we're proud of our rapid growth and our contribution as a new, grassroots voice in San Francisco, I'll also admit that we're learning as we go along. To the candidates who weren't invited to our candidate forum, I apologize, and want them to know that we are willing and eager to engage them in our endorsement process for the November election. To B.A.R. readers who are interested in grassroots activism to make San Francisco everything it can be, we invite them to check us out at www.planccsf.org.

Mike Sullivan, Chair
Plan C San Francisco

Columnist out of touch

What a smug, misguided piece of trash appeared in your newspaper when OutRight columnist Dale Carpenter issued his call to ditch the annual gay and lesbian Pride Parade ("Keep the Pride, ditch the parade," July 11 and "Ditch the parade (part 2)," July 25). I can't remember the last time an article in a queer newspaper drove me to such anger.

The points he made were completely out of touch with reality. First, he claims that the parade no longer serves a useful purpose, since cities have plenty of gay social and political institutions to foster community. Worse, the "bizarreness" of parades hurt gays in smaller cities and rural areas by reinforcing anti-gay stereotypes, he adds.

Instead, Carpenter advocates annual park festivals "which would decrease media coverage and therefore reduce the incentive for attention-getting theatrics."

Wrong, wrong, wrong. When was the last time Carpenter actually spent a day at the Pride Parade, and saw the thousands of enthusiastic people, mostly gay but also many straights as well, having a fabulous time? When did he last see the tears in the eyes of onlookers when the PFLAG contingent passed by? Or the look of excitement and hope on the faces of queer youth getting their first concentrated dose of gay Pride?

Carpenter seems to hold to the old strategy of "let's keep a low profile and look and act just like straights so they won't hate us so much." Well, that got us exactly nowhere in the past, and did nothing but foster a sense of self-hate in many gays.

And what exactly would Carpenter consider bizarre? Surely there's nothing in the Pride Parade that doesn't happen in Mardis Gras, which is a mostly straight event. Is there something wrong with being ourselves and having a good time? Would he also propose ending the Dyke March, which always includes plenty of topless (and even bottomless) women? Frankly, I wouldn't want to be the one making that suggestion to a room full of angry dykes!

I'd sooner ditch Carpenter's column than ditch the Pride Parade. Fortunately, I'm sure his opinions will be ignored and the parade will continue for many years to come.

Robert Ristelhueber
San Jose, California

Hate industry thrives

I've been reading with interest and amusement Dale Carpenter's campaign to ditch the Pride parades. As someone who has attended the San Francisco Pride parades regularly since the very first such parade, I admit to being exhausted with them; I wouldn't be upset at all if they discontinued the parades. At the same time, I feel each generation should be given the choice of deciding for itself how it wishes to celebrate Pride and to determine the strictures they wish to impose on such celebrating.

His concern about the parade's role in how gays are portrayed to "small-town America" causes me to wince. As an African American, I know all too well that the civil rights movement of the 1960s would never have gotten off the ground had African Americans been concerned about how the boycotts, sit-ins, and other efforts would be portrayed—especially, in the South. As you perhaps know, J. Edgar Hoover tried to disparage the movement by portraying Martin Luther King as a communist and a homosexual. Despite this gross misportrayal, Dr. King and the movement pressed on. While I'm not advocating an image be damned position, I believe the gay rights movement cannot afford to allow itself to be driven by concern for how it might be portrayed—or, more correctly, be misportrayed.

There is in this country a very real fear and hate industry—one has only to observe a political campaign at any level to see how fear and hate are invariably woven into candidates' platforms. And no small subset of this industry is the cell, headed by the likes of Jerry Falwell, Lou Sheldon, and James Dobson of Focus on the Family, devoted to demonizing homosexuals and homosexuality. Regardless of how we behave, this cell has no intention of allowing gays to be perceived as other than debauched, sinful psychopaths. Religious beliefs aside, the fear and hate industry recognizes that there is much money to be made by preserving and perpetuating a demonic image of gays. Even when I'm most optimistic about the well-being of the gay community, I don't envision this industry disappearing anytime soon. We must be careful not to delude ourselves into thinking small-town America will deem us in a positive light if we simply "clean up our act." Whether we discontinue the parades, or continue them without the extreme behavior, Falwell, Sheldon, Dobson and the like are not about to cease their campaign to demonize us—to small-town America and the nation as a whole.

Rod Harris
San Francisco

Media images misleading

In response to the reader who identifies himself as Sister Vicious Power Hungry Bitch, I agree with him wholeheartedly when he writes, "Your freedom to be gay is the same freedom I have to be offensive." I am very grateful to live at a time and in a nation in which such behavior is allowed and even protected as a valid form of free speech.

Nevertheless, I as an individual also have the freedom to say that some of the behavior and dress at the Pride parades is embarrassing and vulgar. I believe such behavior reinforces all the negative stereotypes held by those who look upon gay life with contempt. I do not attend Pride parades because as a gay man I am not proud of much of what I see.

Dale Carpenter, in his columns suggesting we ditch the parade, is absolutely right about the media's latching onto the most sensational, outlandish examples of this behavior. Several years ago I was in Washington during the gay march. I saw literally thousands of quite normal-looking, mainstream gay men and women of all ethnicities who behaved in a celebratory but dignified manner. In this huge gathering I saw only four drag queens.

When I returned home the next day, I was dismayed to find that the *San Francisco Chronicle*, which I had thought would be more sensitive about propagating gay stereotypes, had chosen to print a photo of these same four individuals. Readers were left to assume that these four, chosen by the *Chronicle* out of the many throngs of people there, were representative of the march's many attendees.

For me, however, the defining moment of the march came when a handful of religious fundamentalists started shouting insults through bullhorns. The wholesome appearance of the mostly young marchers was in stark contrast to the taunts being directed at them from the sidelines. The hecklers were simply and effectively shouted down with cries of "Shame on you!" Such restrained behavior, done spontaneously and in unison in the face of provocation, carried great moral weight.

Stan Hoffman
Oakland, California

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Bringing T closer to GLB

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

As I sit here, desperately trying to string together my words, watching the minutes tick closer and closer to deadline, I realize that this is one of the harder columns to type. It isn't that the concepts are hard to grasp, nor do I feel that I haven't the skill to place them on the page. It is simply that it goes so far against the way I like to look at our community at large.

I prefer to think of the GLBT community as a unified group, one that is anxious to work together. Even our rainbow flag, with its spectrum of colors, points to a diverse - but unified - community. In reality, I know that there is still much to be done before we can truly see each other as equal allies. The roots of this separation are simply too old to wither overnight.

We do know there were some transgendered individuals at Stonewall. We also know that these same folks fought alongside others who were not transgendered: It was a moment when all banded together to fight against a common enemy.

This unity turned out to be short-lived. Pride parades soon banned transgender presentations in a vain attempt to present a "normalized" view of the larger community. This continued throughout the 1970s, with transgendered people cast as "undesirable" throughout the gay and lesbian community.

It was only in the last decade that this rift began to heal. Issues that we could agree upon were raised, and many people who straddle the line between our communities started to speak up and address our mutual needs. It was these pioneers that inspired me to become an activist.

More often than not, I have worked with the larger GLBT community. I simply see a value in working within a large context, and firmly believe that we can all get what we want out of forming strong working coalitions to achieve our shared needs.

My closeness to the larger community has also made it easier for me to spot some of the places where we still have work to be done. For example, there is still an Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in Congress that does not include transgendered people. In spite of what some like to believe, no one has ever attempted to get transgender added into a bill after a non-inclusive version passed. Also, having transgender included in the first place is not as big a liability as some would like to believe.

The thing I find curious about this lack of inclusion in ENDA is this seems to leave a large loophole that can be used against non-transgendered gays and lesbians. As written, it covers discrimination against someone who is out about their sexual orientation, but if you happen to present as something other than a "straight acting" man or woman, then you still run the risk of employment.

ENDA is a large example of where we are not working together as effectively as we should. There are other, less obvious examples where our communities have been out of step. For this, let me point to our local community center.



Christine Smith

I would not call our LGBT Community Center transphobic: by all indications, the center is very transgender positive. The staff is very trans-positive, and there are organizations housed in the building that include transgender programming as part of their larger missions. The center is even planning a big transgender "reception" of sorts for later this month. Indeed, the center's failing is not its stance toward transgender people,

but is within its understanding of the transgendered.

In many ways, the transgender community is still a fledgling community, in a time warp that puts us in the same position as gay and lesbian groups in the early 1970s. We are still struggling, while our compatriots have prospered.

Most transgender groups are notoriously underfunded. Some have managed to make some inroads when it comes to funding, but it does often seem that funding goes to one or two transgender groups, while the rest is spread amongst any number of gay and lesbian focused groups.

On top of that, transgendered people themselves are often without a ready source of money. Jobs are hard to come by, and upward advancement is often an unavailable luxury. Many are simply out on the street, and unable to move into the same financial strata as others in the larger community.

It is a harsh reality, and one that does effectively shut the door of our community center: most

transgendered people cannot afford to provide basic needs for transgendered people in the building, and the center has remained largely inflexible when it comes to making allowances for the needs of the community, citing its own structure as being prohibitive to such.

That's not to say that this is an unresolvable issue. As I type this, I know that avenues are being explored by the center and local transgender organizations in order to resolve this issue. I, for one, hope to see these actions continue. I also hope that this late-August transgender reception I mentioned will be a place by and for transgendered people, where we can educate and enhance the center's understanding of the needs and issues of the community, and create a common ground from which we can work.

Maybe this is where I can still find hope. Perhaps education done here can continue to spread, much like that which jump-started transgender inclusion in the 1990s. If our center can be open to education, then so can others. I dare go so far, but maybe we can yet end up recognized within ENDA.

If that came to pass, and we truly worked together, I would be quick to tell you all about it. ▼

Gwen Smith welcomes the response of both the San Francisco LGBT Community Center and others. She can be found on the Web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.

Bevan Dufty

◀ page 3

said I was supporting Bevan," he said. "The reason is that Bevan is the best qualified person."

Sheehy noted that in the past, he has supported Hansen and Radulovich.

During his speech, Dufty praised city workers, who he said often get the brunt of citizens' anger when there's a problem. He also said he does have a record to run on based on his years of ser-

vices to the city.

"What's going to happen is people are going to pigeon-hole me," Dufty said. "I want people to judge me for what I do. I don't have any opponents, I have [fel-low] candidates. My opponent is the apathy and the 60 percent of the people who didn't vote in March. I want people to vote for something." ▼

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Is Bill Simon's campaign tanking?

by Wayne Friday

To be successful in elective politics, if you aren't particularly talented, it helps to have some luck. So, I ask you: Is Governor **Gray Davis** lucky, or what?

Four years ago, Davis, then the Democratic candidate, drew a Republican opponent (**Dan Lungren**) who was a far-right, anti-gay, pro-life, pro-gun, Christian zealot who couldn't even deliver the moderates of his own party at the ballot box. Davis won the election in a landslide.

This year, Davis, a lightweight at best, whose first name — as has been widely reported — reflects his personality, is again blessed with a Republican opponent who is an utter political joke — **Bill Simon**.

Actually, Simon had Davis on the defensive just after he crushed former Los Angeles Mayor **Richard Riordan** in the March primary. Davis seemed to be the clear underdog coming into November's general election.

Not any more. Davis is clearly the favorite to win re-election and deservedly so. Recent developments have resulted in one distraction after another for the Simon camp, resulting in some conservative columnists, including the *San Francisco Chronicle's* **Debra Saunders**, calling on Simon to pull out of the race. She advocated a write-in campaign by Secretary of State **Bill Jones**.

Last week, newspapers across the state carried headlines reporting that a Los Angeles jury found Simon's firm liable for a whopping \$78 million in compensatory and punitive damages for defrauding a business partner.

As many news reports noted, Simon is touting himself as a "successful businessman" in his campaign. Now that claim is clearly questionable. The jury found that Simon's firm had defrauded one **Paul Edward Hindelang** of Santa Barbara when it bought into his pay phone company in 1998. (Virtually everyone in the world now carries a cell phone and Simon was investing in public pay phones?) Evidence in the case showed that Simon's firm, while vowing to his partner Hindelang that they would continue the expansion of the phone business, was actually secretly planning to borrow money to buy other pay phone companies, then take the business public, all the while charging the phone company investment banking fees of \$1.5 million. The result was that the phone business collapsed and was seized by lenders. Simon, of course, blames the phone company's failure on Hindelang's failure to disclose that he had been convicted in 1981 of smuggling 500,000 pounds of marijuana.

Simon, a transplanted New Jersey millionaire, who worked briefly in the New York City office of former U.S. Attorney **Rudy Giuliani** and touts that "respected prosecutorial service" as part of his public service background, should have had the sense to take a good look at Hindelang's background.

A few weeks earlier, newspapers carried front-page stories that the Internal Revenue Service was investigating a tax shelter in which Simon had invested for possible violations of the law.

Incidentally, the news of the investigation by the IRS only reminded California voters that Simon had for months refused to release his tax returns for public scrutiny. Finally, under pressure, Simon allowed a handful of reporters to take a brief peek at the returns, a fleeting look that raised more questions than were answered and reinforced the impression that Simon's business ventures contained something he was

trying to hide. Reporters who were granted a four-hour time limit to check out thousands of pages of tax returns covering nearly a dozen years left feeling there indeed had to be something hiding there.

These aren't the only business stories about Simon — there's also the family investment firm that he ran into bankruptcy that we haven't touched on that is costing California taxpayers nearly \$200 million.

Every candidate for governor in every state in the nation should be so damned lucky as Gray Davis.



Our Man Friday



Mayoral hopeful Susan Leal

Politics and people

She's out and she's in: San Francisco Treasurer **Susan Leal** took the plunge this week and is running for mayor in 2003 to replace the termed out **Willie Brown**. Leal, a Latina lesbian, spoke with the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday and revealed that when people ask her if she's running, she says "Yes." She also told us that she thinks she's the most qualified for the city's top job. Leal said that while Board of Supervisors President **Tom Ammiano**, who has said he's running, and Supervisor **Gavin Newsom**, who is likely to run, "have done great things for the city, I think I can reach out to a broad-based constituency." Leal handily won re-election as treasurer last year with a whopping 87 percent of the vote. Before becoming treasurer, Leal served as a supervisor, winning citywide election after being appointed by former Mayor **Frank Jordan**.

Supervisor and Assemblyman-to-be **Mark Leno** had a large crowd Monday night at his gala fundraiser (to pay off those campaign debts) at Market Street's Mecca Restaurant; Leno will do us all proud in Sacramento.

And District 8 supe candidate **Benan Duffy** had an overflow crowd at his campaign kickoff last

Thursday at his Market Street (and Castro) headquarters; a crowd that shows Duffy is a top candidate in that district contest.

Meanwhile, another supe candidate in District 8, **Eileen Hansen**, is quoted in a recent *San Francisco Bay Guardian* story about women candidates this way: "I'm not a supporter of identity politics, but we need to look at what a woman might do for a community versus what a man might do." Hopefully, November will see a number of women candidates (and successful ones at that) but I'm not sure District 8 will be sending one to City Hall.

East Bay political observers tell me that one of the most interesting races in November will be for mayor of Berkeley between incumbent **Shirley Dean** and former Democratic Assemblyman **Tom Bates**. Since I don't live in Berkeley, I'll defer to openly gay City Council member **Kriss Worthington** in that one and he says Bates is the better candidate, so he must be.

Incidentally, former Berkeley Mayor **Loni Hancock** is now running for the state Assembly seat once held by now mayoral candidate Tom Bates, and yes, Hancock and Bates are husband and wife. Confused yet? Well, Berkeley politics is often confusing — so much so in fact that one must win only 45 percent of the vote (that's right, 45 percent, not 50 percent plus 1) to avoid a runoff, and with several lesser candidates in the race, look for a runoff.

Bill Simon isn't going to like this, but San Francisco Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** (D) is proposing a bill, AB573, that will be heard this month that requires candidates for governor to disclose all of their federal and state income tax returns; this is above what candidates are now required to file with the Fair Political Practices Commission.

That brings me to a question from a longtime reader who wants to know who Assemblywoman Migden is supporting for supervisor in District 8. I don't know (she hasn't called me in awhile) but I hear she's backing **Lynn Newhouse Segal** over **Gavin Newsom** in District 2 and is backing Supervisor **Chris Daly** in a big way in District 6, even to the point of hosting a fundraiser at her home (nope, wasn't invited to that either).

When **Alan Duncan**, 43, the parliamentary spokesman for foreign affairs and a central figure in Britain's Conservative politics for the past decade, publicly announced that he was gay recently, he was quickly embraced by Conservative Party leader **Ian Smith**, who sent Duncan a letter saying: "What you have done is honest and it will not affect you in any way politically in the future." Homosexuality has been a divisive issue in Britain's Conservative Party, and while a number of Labor politicians have declared they are gay, Duncan is the first sitting Tory member of Parliament to have done so; other Conservatives who have been exposed in the press in recent years as being gay have either resigned or lost their seats.

In what had been billed as the only really competitive House race in California, a new poll now has

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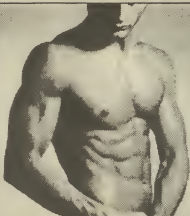
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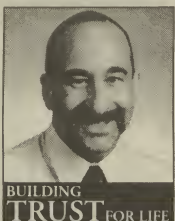
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Some models for a gay future (part 1)

by Dale Carpenter

The gay movement struggles on two planes. One of them is the domain of law dominated by legislators, lobbyists, lawyers, and courts. The second is the domain of social relations dominated by family members, friends, and private organizations.

Is there a model that guides us in each of these domains? It turns out there are choices among models to be pursued in each, and those choices very much define what it is we are trying to achieve. This column presents the possible models for progress in the legal domain. The next column will look at the possible models in the social domain.

There have been four prominent legal models for gay progress. They overlap to some extent and it is possible to embrace more than one, but they have different notions about the role of gay citizens in civic life and entail very different conceptions of the proper role of government. Let's consider each briefly.

Privacy. This was one of the earliest, and long the dominant, model for gay progress in the law. Early gay advocates, faced with overwhelming hostility to homosexuality from law enforcement, clergy, politicians, the psychiatric profession, and ordinary Americans, used this argument to appeal to people who otherwise would never accept a gay rights claim.

Its thrust is simple: get rid of sodomy laws. In the words of Northwestern University law professor Andrew Koppelman in his recent book *The Gay Rights Question in Contemporary American Law*, "the criminalization of homosexual activity has been the most important legal disadvantage that gays have faced and the keystone of a pattern of other disadvantages."

More broadly, the privacy model seeks to create a protected space within which the citizen can make fundamental decisions affecting his or her own life. Within his own private sphere, the citizen is king. The government must not

intrude and must protect him from intrusion by other citizens.

The advantage of this approach has been that even people who disapprove of homosexuality can agree that homosexuals should have some right to privacy. And so the model has been remarkably successful, helping to eliminate by judicial or legislative action the sodomy laws of most states over the past four decades.

The disadvantage of the privacy model is that it is so limited. Most gay people do not want the freedom simply to withdraw into their own homes to have sex, important as that right is. They want to lead their lives openly and honestly. They do not want the right to be private, but the right to be public. For that, we need a more robust legal model.

Substantive equality. This model is now the dominant one for gay progress in American law. It argues that, whatever straight people are free to do, gay people should be free to do. In the gay-rights movement, its most prominent organizational proponent is the Human Rights Campaign.

This model seeks to set the conditions for the equal participation of gay people in civic life. Thus, it opposes state-sponsored anti-gay discrimination in the form of sodomy laws, the ban on military service by openly gay people, and bans on gay marriage, among other things. However, the substantive-equality model also sees much private discrimination (by employers and landlords, for example) as a threat to gays' equal participation in ordinary civic life. So it supports civil rights laws designed to protect gays from much of this discrimination.

The advantage of this model is its breadth and its resemblance to the models adopted for other groups long subject to discrimination, like blacks and women. A disadvantage is, again, its breadth: it aggressively combats, by government mandate, deep-seated private prejudices. That gives government significant, perhaps dangerous, power over private citizens.

Formal equality. This model

(which its adherents might prefer to call a "freedom" model) has been championed by some libertarian-leaning gay advocates, like Andrew Sullivan, David Boaz, and Paul Varnell. It argues for the elimination of sexual orientation as a category in American law. The state, in this conception, must pay no mind to a person's sexual orientation just as it should pay no mind to a person's race or religion.

The formal-equality model, like the substantive-equality model, opposes state-sponsored anti-gay discrimination of every kind. However, unlike the substantive-equality model, it also opposes measures to protect gay people from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

The advantage of this approach is its elegance and simplicity. It probably can be more easily accepted by our opponents than a substantive-equality model can be since it requires less of them.

A disadvantage is its blindness to the real-life sources of threats to human freedom. These include not just government power but private power aided by government. Employment, for example, is not a pre-political thing existing apart from law and never has been. Now we are to pretend otherwise?

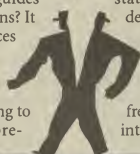
This model is chiefly useful as a critique of the excesses of the substantive-equality model.

Liberation. This model seeks a revolution in society and its mores. It doesn't want mere equality with straight people; it wants liberation from their values and practices. It wants all kinds of radical changes in laws related to sex, family, marriage, and so on. Among national gay groups, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force comes closest to embracing this model.

The advantage of the liberation model is that it gives adherents that good old 1960s groovy feeling. The disadvantage is that it is completely unrealistic and destructive.

There you have it. Where do you stand? ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.



OutRight

Pot bust boon

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"AEF said there was a coffee can there at the cannabis club and about \$300 in coins there we seized. But the AIDS Emergency Fund made a claim for \$5,000," said the spokeswoman, Hallye Jordan. "We all agreed to give the bulk of the amount to a neutral third party and we believe this Project Open Hand is a good charity."

"I have no knowledge about the attorney general's decision," AEF board chair Ralph Petersen told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Petersen said he had been contacted by Peron some time back and knew his intention was to have the money go to AEF, but did not know the reasoning behind the decision to limit its share of the funds.

With AEF also facing monetary problems this year, Petersen said he still welcomes any funding

the organization can collect.

"Of course we are overjoyed to hear there is money coming our way. We have had a significant increase in clients this year," stated Petersen, who said he was not aware of the agreement until a reporter contacted him. "We serve the most needy people in our community — low income men and women with HIV and AIDS as well as breast cancer — and this money couldn't come at a better time."

The deal brings an end to the 6-year-old battle over the fate of the cash between state prosecutors and Peron, who pleaded no contest to charges of "conspiring to commit a public nuisance" and was sentenced to only the few days he spent in jail after being first taken into custody.

"Everyone had to play their role. Dan Lungren [the attorney general at the time] played his role. I played my role," said Peron. "In the end, I guess we won. I am glad to have it all behind me now."

While he may have closure on the pot club raid, Peron is preparing for a court appearance in Utah later this month stemming from his being busted for possession of marijuana at a hotel.

"We are challenging the law in Utah saying that California law says we can use and present marijuana. If it is legal in California, it should be legal in Utah," said Peron. "It is a small, Mormon, hick town. I only had two ounces of pot, but they make it sound like two pounds. I only had \$2,000 in money, but they make it out as drug money."

If convicted in that case, Peron faces five years in jail. He said no matter how the judge decides in the case, he is prepared for another long court battle.

"I am used to fighting. I am looking forward to the battle," he said. "I have met some great people in Utah. If there is a destiny, then it is meant to be that I was to get busted in Utah and light a candle, a ray of hope." ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Alley cat...

by Jane Warner

Uncle Bert's bar, 4086 18th Street; A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro Street; Cliff's Variety, 479 Castro Street; July 29, various hours throughout the morning: The manager of Uncle Bert's bar received a call from his alarm company at 4:30 a.m. reporting a motion detector coming from the back window. Living only a couple of blocks away, the manager responded to the bar and was met by several police officers.

A walk through the premises was negative for suspects so the officers left the scene. The manager went back to secure the window and found two video tapes on the windowsill and a package of frozen fish. He then saw a man standing in the bar's back patio. The suspect fled by jumping over a fence, but the manager went around the bar to Hartford Street where he saw the suspect climbing down onto the sidewalk. The manager chased the suspect to the Chevron station and caught up to

him, asking him what he was doing in the back yard. "Just trying to have a cigarette," replied the suspect, who is described as a white male, 5 feet 10 inches tall, 170 pounds, about 30 years old, with acne scars, and wearing a light gray sweatshirt, gray pants, and white tennis shoes. The manager, who did not have a cell phone, went back to his bar and called 911.

The next morning, staff at A Different Light Bookstore called police and reported being burglarized. The suspect entered by taking the glass sliding door off its track. About \$20 in coins was taken from a strong box in the office of the store. A few hours later, workers at Cliff's Variety called police after noticing several pallets stacked on top of each other next to the back yard fence shared with Uncle Bert's. The owner of Cliff's found a flashlight, which was turned into police for fingerprints.

...on the prowl

Welcome Home, 464 Castro Street; Osaka Sushi, 460 Castro;

China Court, 599 Castro street; July 30, 4:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11 a.m.: At about 4:30 a.m., the manager arrived to open the restaurant and discovered several drawers had been opened and rummaged through. Afraid a suspect might still be in the store, the manager went outside and called 911. Responding police conducted a search, but no suspect was found. Officers discovered the back door kicked in as well as the office door, where \$400 had been taken from the cash box.

About five hours later, when the chef for Osaka Sushi arrived for work, he discovered the back door to the restaurant kicked in and the cash register opened. After calling 911, the chef carefully checked the rest of the restaurant. Discovered missing was \$285 from the register. There are no known suspects, but the restaurant shares the same back alley as Welcome Home.

About two hours later, police responded to a call from the owner of China Court Restaurant reporting that someone had broken in during the previous night. When officers arrived, they noted that the cash register had been pried open and \$1,000 was reported missing. It was unclear how the suspect gained entry.

Police believe the same suspect is responsible for all six of the above incidents. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.



State equal benefits bill in trouble

by Joe Dignan

California's proposed equal benefits law may be in trouble.

The measure, AB1080, authored by Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego), and similar to San Francisco's landmark ordinance, would require all contractors doing business with the state of California to provide the same benefits to domestic partners as they do to spouses.

The state Senate Appropriations Committee has placed the bill in its suspense file of bills to be considered at the end of the session before the Legislature adjourns on August 31. There are about 1,000 bills backed up in the Legislature along with the state budget, over which there is still an impasse with Democratic legislators two votes short of the two-thirds majority needed to put the spending package on Governor Gray Davis's desk.

The equal benefits bill must be removed from the suspense file by August 16 in order for it to be acted on by the full Senate.

The Senate Judiciary Committee passed the bill on a 4-1 vote on June 26.

Geoff Kors, interim executive director of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, an LGBT lobbying organization, said that he is optimistic that the appropriations committee will send the bill to the Senate floor for consideration. Two Democratic lawmakers, however, are apparently on the fence.

"It is essential that members of the community contact Senator John Burton of San Francisco and Senator Dede Alpert of San Diego," Kors said.

If bills are deemed to have a fiscal impact of more than \$150,000 they are often put in the suspense file for consideration along with other spending measures at the

end of the session.

"Because of the current budget situation, if there is a potential fiscal impact there is an extra consciousness," Kors said. "The Legislature is trying to be very careful in the state's current financial situation."

"We don't feel that there's a big financial impact to this bill. Nor do we think that government should put a price tag on discrimination."

Ex-Senator Tom Hayden introduced a similar bill in 1997 that failed on a 2-4 vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Opponents of the bill include the Seventh Day Adventist Church Council that, in a published statement, said that the bill "coerces state contractors to violate deeply held religious convictions or abandon the services provided to the citizens of California."

Similar controversies arose over San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance, with the most conspicuous social service providers holding out against that law being San Francisco's Roman Catholic Archdiocese and the Salvation Army, both of which administered social service programs funded by the city.

Ultimately the archdiocese implemented a compromise policy—wherein any one member of an employee's household is entitled to benefits—without actually using the term domestic partner.

No such compromise was reached with the Salvation Army, and its \$1.3 million city contract for a senior lunch program was taken over by Project Open Hand several years ago.

Today 30 percent of Fortune 500 companies now provide equal benefits as a result of San Francisco's law.

Kors said that those concerned about the bill should contact Burton at (916) 445-1412 and Alpert at (916) 445-3952. ▼

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Community center leaders step down

by Joe Dignan

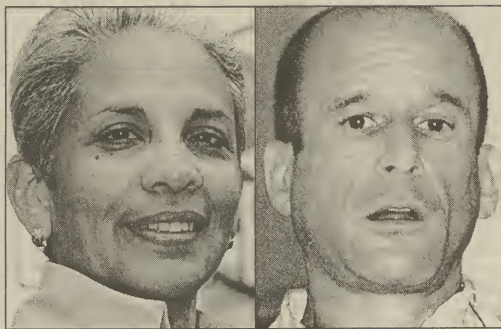
LGBT Community Center board President Patricia Martel and Vice President Dana Van Gorder have resigned from the center's board of directors and have been replaced by new co-chairs, Scott Wiener and Randi Gerson.

Both Martel and Van Gorder had been on the board since the center was conceived and worked on the project throughout its construction.

As to why they stepped down, both Martel and Van Gorder said that it's time to hand the center over to its professional management. Brian Cheu was recently hired as executive director for the center, which opened in March and now has a full-time staff of 19.

Van Gorder said that the center now belongs to the community. "Others need to have a say in what happens here. I want to make sure that it always looks beautiful and makes a home for people who feel like they don't have one."

Van Gorder related that he and four others: Carole Migden, who was a San Francisco supervisor at the time, Van Gorder's friend the late Dick Pabich, Mark Cloutier, and Jeff Henne first met to discuss the center at Henne's house in 1992. "It was a Victorian on 21st or 22nd. We were drinking wine,"



LGBT Community Center board members Patricia Martel, left, and Dana Van Gorder, have resigned after many years of service.

Van Gorder said.

"I was working for Carole as an aide at the time, and the Department of Public Health had done some interviews with gay men — this was before protease inhibitors came out — asking them to talk about if HIV prevention was working or not. At these focus groups, people talked about not having any meaningful sense of belonging and being isolated. They also talked about being uncertain about the future of the community and about what the future for gay men might be if we continued to have this pandemic."

"And out popped Jeff with the idea 'It's time for us to try and build a community center again.' He said it that simply, I think," Van Gorder said.

Migden asked then-Mayor Frank Jordan for the seed money to do studies and initial planning for the center.

"The first office was my dining room," said Martel. "We really didn't have an office. I was the first treasurer. The board and treasurer's records were in boxes in my dining room."

Van Gorder said that, for him, the high points of his tenure on the board were the initial public tours of the center while it was still under construction.

"We'd take out newspaper ads inviting people to come and see the building. On Saturdays we'd give tours. Lots of people had been skeptical, and I was worried. Maybe we'd open a building that nobody liked, or maybe we'd forgotten something. But when we

took them through, they were completely blown away. Maybe, I thought, we did it right."

Martel, the director of San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission, said that her job was to focus on the business side of the project. "That's where Dana and I balanced each other. Dana was the visionary. Even before there was a center, he was talking about programs and services. But my big focus was the management structure and getting the finances together."

Ultimately the center took 10 years to construct and cost \$15.8 million.

Van Gorder recalled a difficult period. "I lost sleep and bought a lot of lottery tickets in 1999 when we seemed to have hit the wall in major contributions. Mark Leno was instrumental along with a lot of others: Peter Poulos, Jeff Anderson, Sabrina Riddle. We brought in some really great major donors. Jim Hormel established credibility."

"And we had some big strokes of luck. The property was cheap when we bought it. In Willie Brown we had a mayor who liked to build things. And when we were raising money, it was falling out of heaven in San Francisco."

The city of San Francisco ultimately contributed \$6 million toward the project.

Both Martel and Van Gorder were recognized for their work when they each received the 2002 Equality Award from the Human Rights Campaign at the organization's gala dinner in San Francisco last month. ▼

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Leno

◀ page 5

candidates for supervisor, including Tom Radulovich and Bevan Dufty in District 8, and Garrett Jenkins in District 6, who's running against Daly.

Leno attributed his primary victory to his ability to build a broad coalition of supporters, including Asians, transgenders, African Americans, Latinos, medical cannabis advocates, and others.

"So now we're going forward. I have some big pumps to fill," Leno said, referring to Migden and her legacy of accomplishment and leadership in the Assembly. "But the expectation is upon me now. The buzz in Sacramento is that we've raised more money than just about anyone else."

"As I said during the campaign, Carole and Willie [Brown, who held the Assembly seat before becoming mayor] didn't make it to leadership

on good looks alone. They did it raising money for Democrats."

And Leno has raised a lot of money. According to his filing with the secretary of state's office, for the period between February 17 and June 30, Leno's campaign raised \$282,448.56. After expenditures of \$328,702, the campaign had \$134,579 cash on hand as of the end of June. Fundraiser Julie Davis noted that the money spent was higher because most of Leno's expenses for the primary came in the final three weeks prior to the March 5 primary.

In terms of issues, Leno spoke about the need for high-speed rail in the state, working to implement Proposition 215 so that medical marijuana patients have safe access to their medicine, and working toward civil unions.

"We're moving toward civil unions and we're moving toward civil marriage," he said. "Mark my words, at the end of my six years I hope we'll have it." ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

War on terrorism raises questions about the Pentagon's gay ban

by Matthew S. Bajko

As America continues to wage a war against terrorism, the presence of non-uniformed intelligence agents in combat situations is raising new questions about the rationale behind the military's ban on openly gay soldiers.

In interviews with the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California, Santa Barbara, some analysts and experts on intelligence and military personnel issues have begun to ask why, if intelligence combatants are not fired for revealing their homosexuality, gay soldiers are still drummed out if their sexual orientation becomes known.

According to the research center, the war against terrorism has placed intelligence officers, who are not governed by the Pentagon's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, in paramilitary environments. The presence of intelligence officers — who are technically allowed to be openly gay — on the battlefield together with uniformed personnel pokes holes in the military's rationale for prohibiting openly gay soldiers from serving, said Aaron Belkin, director of the center.

"If the CIA can tolerate openly gay employees in combat situations, why can't the Pentagon?" asked Belkin.

"We have our policy, you'll need to talk to [the intelligence agencies] about theirs," said Lieutenant Colonel James Cassella, a Pentagon spokesman, when asked to explain the military's restrictions on openly gay soldiers.

He said that, though "a service member's sexual orientation is a personal and private matter," the 1993 federal statute barring openly gay men and women from serving in the armed forces had "determined that homosexual conduct is incompatible with military

service."

Since 1995, when President Clinton signed an executive order prohibiting the denial of security clearances "on the basis of the sexual orientation of the employee," the CIA, National Security Agency, and the FBI have not forbidden openly gay people from joining their organizations, as the Pentagon does.

Since then, employees at both the CIA and NSA have organized official gay and lesbian groups that meet openly, often on the organization's premises. In 2000, the CIA held a gay Pride celebration at its Langley headquarters, designed to reflect the agency's positive attitude toward sexual minorities.

"The Pentagon continues to insist that homosexuality is incompatible with military service, but their presence in the current campaign is making that assertion harder and harder to accept," said Belkin.

Though uniformed personnel have always served in intelligence agencies, many of the highly specialized agents currently conducting logistical, training, and intelligence support in Afghanistan are not uniformed soldiers. The most highly publicized of these was Johnny Michael Spann, a 32-year-old CIA officer who became the first American casualty since the U.S. began its bombing campaign last fall.

Experts said there were both similarities and differences between intelligence and military operations. R. James Woolsey, the director of the CIA from 1993 to 1995, said that because the U.S. is engaged in a war in the field against terrorism, "there are going to be a few more paramilitary people in the CIA than there were in the early 1990s."

But he distinguished between the organizational structure of the CIA and that of the uniformed services.

"Overall, the agency does not

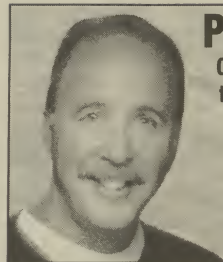
work in small, single-sex groups who are out together for a long period of time in which unit cohesion is an issue," said Woolsey.

Woolsey explained that the concern for the CIA regarding gay and lesbian agents was not unit cohesion, which is the rationale for the ban among uniformed soldiers, but blackmail. During an era when most gays and lesbians were not public about their sexuality, their secret, it was argued, might give enemies leverage in obtaining classified information.

In these days and times, however, now that more and more people admit their sexual orientation, that rationale is history, said Woolsey. Even when he served, Woolsey said, "as far as I was concerned there was no basis at all to discriminate against gays and lesbians in the CIA. It's just not a problem for the CIA because of the change in openness about gays over the last generation."

David Rudgers, a 22-year veteran of the CIA, and author of *Creating the Secret State*, said the military's attitude toward gays and lesbians is rooted more in its traditional machismo than in a genuine concern for the combat per-

next page ►



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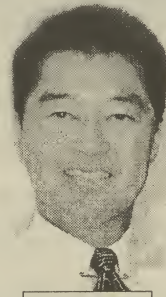
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Hitler reference stirs political controversy

by Bob Roehr

A gay Democrat who votes for an openly gay Republican candidate for office is like "a Jew voting for Hitler," said Doug Head, chairman of the Orange County Democratic Party, as quoted in a July 30 article in the *Orlando Sentinel*. He was speaking about Patrick Howell, an openly gay man who is running for the Florida Legislature as a Republican.

It has raised a firestorm of criticism, both locally and nationally.

"Head's analogy is alarming and reprehensible. There is no comparison between a man who's participating in the democratic process and a totalitarian responsible for the slaughter of millions of innocent people, including Jews and gays," said Bob Kearney, political director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. The group is a bipartisan national organization that supports openly LGBT candidates. It has endorsed Howell.

"Head's attempt to make sexual orientation a partisan issue is divisive and ignores the positive contributions made to our society by openly gay public servants of every political affiliation," the Victory Fund said in its nationally distributed news release.

Head "clarified" his statement the following day in the *Sentinel*, saying, "He's not Hitler. But for a gay black Democrat not to recognize that the Republican Party isn't going to look out for their interests isn't paying attention."

Writing on the party Web site, Head said he was "shocked by the bizarre campaign Web site photo

of 'proudly' gay Mr. Howell posing as the happy heterosexual family man with his arm around a female campaign worker and the son of a marriage he left when the boy was 2 months old."

When asked about the photo, Howell said that his webmaster put together the site and when he visited it, he "saw a picture of my son and someone who I'm very, very close with," who also is his campaign manager, "and didn't think anything about it."

But when people suggested that others might interpret the photo differently, Howell quickly agreed. "I need to look at appearances and perceptions, not just how I feel," he said. The photos have been captioned to make the relationships clear.

"Patrick Howell can't represent gay people by selling out," wrote Head. He chastised Howell for supporting the Republican president and governor and issued a laundry list of 18 points that he wanted Howell to support.

The list showed a sophisticated understanding of gay issues that few heterosexuals have mastered. Yet Head is not openly gay. It added another intricate level of "bizarre" to the machinations and motivations of the dust-up in Orlando.

Local Republican Party Chairman Lew Oliver weighed in with a column in the August 1 edition of the *Sentinel*, calling Head's remarks "so extreme, so vulgar, and so desperate that it begs for a reaction of indignant outrage."

"How can any party chairman regard any voting bloc as exclusively Republican or Democrat? Voters do not belong to me or my

party, like distinct herds of cattle." He chastised Head for making a person's sexual orientation "a litmus test."

"The Republican Party, to its credit, doesn't care about Howell's sexual orientation," wrote Oliver. "The fact that he has another unique connection with part of his district is simply in furtherance of that old bromide that 'all politics is local.'"

Log Cabin Republicans, in an open letter to National Stonewall Democrats, said, "These tactics by the Democratic Party are not only morally indefensible, they show tremendous disrespect for gay and lesbian Americans, and their ability to think and act for themselves in a democracy."

It pointed out that the incumbent is Republican Allen Trovillion, who last year told a group of high school students in his office lobbying for a gay inclusive "Dignity For All Students" bill that they would go to hell for such activity. The aging homophobe is term-limited out and Howell is running for his seat.

Trovillion has endorsed the Democratic candidate that Head supports. "I'm not prejudice against gays," Trovillion claimed in the *Sentinel*. He has not met Howell and said, "I hear he doesn't stand for the same things I do."

Log Cabin called for the Stonewall Democrats "to hold their Democratic Party accountable when they attack openly gay candidates."

John Marble, spokesman for National Stonewall Democrats, called Head's comments "unfortunate." ▼

Gays in military

◀ page 13

formance of the armed services.

"A lot of this is just hostility to an uncomfortable idea," he said. "The male ego is not a hardy perennial; it's a very delicate flower."

Out in the field, someone's sexual identity is not foremost on most soldiers' minds, said Rudgers.

"These things don't really matter because you're thrown together and everyone has to work together for common survival. What matters is if the man beside you is a good shot," he said. "It's when you get back to the barracks and you have too much time on your

hands."

Agents in covert operations of the CIA sometimes work in the same foxholes with military personnel on the frontlines, said James Bamford, a visiting professor at the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley.

"There doesn't seem to be any problem with the intelligence officers accepting gays. I've never thought it was very rational to keep them out of intelligence," said Bamford, author of *The Puzzle Palace and Body of Secrets*. "Before, there had always been these worries over compromising classified relationships. Now, they've found nothing to point to. They have a lot of employees now who are gay in intelligence and who are

working out well."

The renewed discussion surrounding the disparate policies regarding gay members of the intelligence and military communities is a point that the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network has made before in its annual policy report.

"The irony of all this is very apparent, especially during the war on terrorism," said SLDN director of communications Steve Ralls. "It certainly makes a very solid argument that if we are entrusting GLBT CIA agents, FBI agents and other personnel with sensitive information and entrusting them to defend us in the war on terrorism there is no reason we shouldn't give gay and lesbian service members the same option." ▼

Black Coalition

◀ page 4

hood perspectives."

Poe, while his goal is to expand on the health-related work he has done at BCA, has not yet found another position, he said. He plans to stay on at the organization through November to assist BCA with its search and leadership transition. Many of BCA's board members, he noted, have also served for at least six years, and so part of his task will be recruiting new board members to give the organization some new life as it faces unique challenges.

"One of the things BCA has to deal with is the shrinking population of black folks in San Francisco," explained Poe. "When your market

place shrinks you have to find new markets. So we've been hit with funding reductions like everyone else, but we're also dealing with a shrinking population of who we serve."

"There's a lot of opportunity here for new energy and my transition will attempt to establish a framework of direction for the next leadership."

The mission of the Black Coalition on AIDS is to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS in the black community through education, service, and advocacy. BCA promotes collective, comprehensive, and compassionate care for those infected with, and affected by, the disease.

Poe leaves behind a legacy of accomplishments, including the development of the Brandy Moore House, a model for supportive housing; BCA's social marketing

campaigns that created materials and publications for the black community about HIV/AIDS; and BCA's work with black churches to combine outreach and education that reached more people in their own neighborhoods.

As BCA reinvents and reinvigorates itself, said Poe, interested community members are welcome to call the agency and give their input as to where they'd like to see attentions focused.

"We encourage people to call and talk about what this agency should do, what its directions should be for the future," said Poe. "Anyone interested in serving on the board and being an agent of change should also call."

The Black Coalition on AIDS is reachable at (415) 615-9945 or online at www.bcoa.org. ▼

Latest AIDS statistics show white gay men are at greatest risk

by Matthew S. Bajko

According to the latest statistics released by the city's Department of Public Health, white gay men who live in San Francisco continue to be at the greatest risk of developing AIDS.

As documented in both the Department of Public Health's AIDS quarterly surveillance report through June 2002 and the recently completed HIV/AIDS epidemiology, annual report for 2001, AIDS cases in San Francisco are more likely to be male, white, and to occur among men who have sex with men.

During the first six months of 2002, men accounted for 118 out of 134 new AIDS cases diagnosed this year. The city diagnosed 14 women and two transgenders with AIDS so far this year.

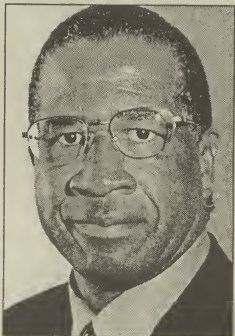
Gay and bisexual men accounted for 65 percent of all new AIDS cases, with whites accounting for 59 percent.

Both African Americans and Latinos accounted for roughly 17 percent of new AIDS cases, with Asian and Pacific Islanders making up 5 percent of new AIDS cases documented through June.

The newest numbers mean San Francisco has seen 28,094 AIDS cases since DPH began compiling statistics in 1980. Over the more than two decades since the epidemic first surfaced, 19,012 San Franciscans have died due to AIDS.

"We would hope the community comes up with a way to reduce HIV transmission among same gender loving men. That population of men is who is most at risk for infection," said James Loyce Jr., the health department's deputy director of AIDS programs. "That is not to say that other populations are not at risk, but these are the men who remain the most at risk."

While the number of cases is



James Loyce Jr.

highest among gay white men, the rate of incidence continues to remain high among the city's black community. According to the 2001 report, the proportion of AIDS cases among African Americans continued to rise last year, continuing a trend since 1992. The incidence rate of AIDS per 100,000 population among African American men was 202 compared to 152 among white men in 2001.

"There is an underlying thing there that goes on in our community and that is the black community tends to be underserved so the numbers themselves don't really tell much. You have to dig a bit deeper to find out what is going on in the black community," said Daniel Hlad, communications associate at the Black Coalition on AIDS.

The numbers in the 2001 annual report do show some positive developments in the city's fight against AIDS. The number of new AIDS cases continued to decline in 2001 compared to 2000, which health officials attribute to HIV prevention successes years ago and to recent breakthroughs in treatment.

Also, during 2001, not a single child under 13 years old was diag-

nosed with AIDS in San Francisco and HIV transmission between heterosexuals remains relatively rare in the city. With only one resident reportedly contracting AIDS through a blood transfusion last year, it is estimated the risk of acquiring HIV from a blood transfusion in the city is one in a million.

For all the advances in HIV prevention and AIDS treatment, health officials caution uninfected people may be less fearful of acquiring HIV infection and continue to see an increase in sexual risk behaviors in gay and bisexual men.

City health officials also estimate that of the nearly 3,000 male-to-female transgenders in the city, more than one-third are currently infected with HIV. The report states that the rate of new HIV infections in this group exceeds that of any other population at risk.

The 2001 report concludes, "in the absence of a cure or vaccine, or new improvements in treatment and prevention, we may inexorably witness a new rise in AIDS cases and deaths in San Francisco."

In an effort to make sure that does not happen, city health officials and various AIDS agencies continue to search out new and innovative approaches to HIV prevention.

"Prior to this report coming out, discussions have been going on amongst the HIV prevention and planning council, the mayor's office, our office, and the sexually transmitted disease office to look at what we can do in conjunction with multiple communities in San Francisco that are at work to develop prevention messages that are different than the more historically used messages," said Loyce.

The entire 2001 report is available online at www.dph.sf.ca.us/PHP/AIDSSurvUnit.htm or for a free copy, call (415) 554-9050. ▼

Viagra

◀ page 1

ready presents some disturbing signs. Of those men who had used Viagra, 23 percent had used it with speed to counteract the effects of "crystal dick," the inability to maintain an erection due to methamphetamine use.

"We know anecdotally that guys on crystal are less likely to use a condom," said Krochmal. "Viagra was thought to cancel out the argument 'I can't stay hard and use a condom' but that hasn't bore out."

In addition, 18 percent of Viagra users said they had combined it with ecstasy, 8 percent had used it with GHB, and 11 percent said they had used it with special K.

Among the HIV-positive men who said they had used Viagra, 29 percent had combined the drug with their HAART medications. However, such usage is most likely legitimate since many doctors will prescribe Viagra to their HIV-positive patients.

"Guys on HAART do have sexual side effects where they can't

maintain an erection," said Krochmal.

How men are obtaining Viagra also shows a disturbing pattern. While 44 percent said they had gotten it from a physician, the majority of men had gotten Viagra without a prescription. The survey found 44 percent had gotten the drug from a friend, 6 percent had bought it off the Internet and 4 percent had gotten it on the street. Another 10 percent said they had obtained it from other sources.

"Under most circumstances, they are not going to get the full background on the effects of Viagra, especially if they are using it with other drugs," said Krochmal. "We need to offer that information in a community setting."

Staff from both the Stop AIDS Project and the Department of Public Health will present the data during the forum and answer questions from community members.

"There is lots of misinformation out in the community that is really hurting people. I think two really important points for us about this forum is getting the information out to the community," said David

Evans, the Stop AIDS Project's newly hired program director.

"Both Stop AIDS and DPH are very interested in what the community has to say. We also want to know how guys are using it and what they would like to know more about Viagra," Evans said.

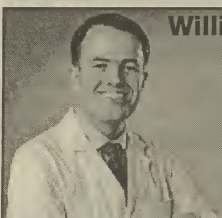
The community forum will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, August 15 at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. ▼

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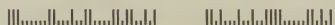
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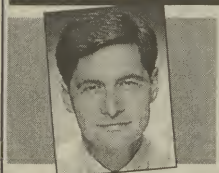
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A PWA's take on Barcelona, part 1

by Michael Lauro,
Survive AIDS Writers
Pool

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of Michael Lauro's observations following the AIDS conference in Barcelona.

It would be naïve to expect any of the enthusiasm that accompanied some of the international AIDS conferences held immediately after the widespread debut of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) around 1996. Indeed, with 95 percent of the world's HIV population going without basic AIDS medications, anemic prevention efforts in many places like San Francisco, hurdles to vaccine development still unanswered, grave HCV and HIV co-infection problems presenting as a parallel epidemic, and evidence of side effects mounting to the on-heralded use of HAART, participants of the recent XIV International AIDS Conference could hardly depart from Barcelona, Spain without feeling at least some sense of disappointment.

It is impossible for one lone AIDS activist to cover all seven separate tracks of the conference (basic sciences, clinical science/care, epidemiology, prevention "science," social sciences,

interventions/program implementation, and advocacy/public policy), review all the daily poster abstracts for these seven tracks, and attend the plenary sessions and overlapping oral presentations held each day. Given that, this modest article will in no way attempt a conference highlights theme. The words that follow are merely one individual's highlights, including some admittedly cursory observations of the themes that most interested him.

Opening ceremonies

Thankfully, I skipped these to sort through the conference program materials, two volumes of abstracts, and plan for my next day's schedule. The following morning Barcelona's

major daily newspapers all carried an enormous above-the-fold photo of thousands of opening ceremony conference participants holding lighted candles in the air at the Palau St. Jordi. I'm not sure if "Ode to Joy" was cued in the background, but certainly that would have been an appropriate accompaniment. On Monday, as the first full day of the conference breaks, I am satisfied that I'm one-for-one in time management.

Monday's plenary session

The large hall was nearly filled as the first of four speakers, Irene Fernandez, a human rights activist and director of a non-governmental organization (NGO) serving women and migrant workers in Malaysia, shared her guiding slogans such as "nothing for us without us" and "it's a noisy world - it's unhealthy to speak in whispers." She was followed by Bernard Schwartlander of the World Health Organization whose lecture was entitled: "The HIV Epidemic: What is it Doing? Where is it Going?" He referred to WHO global estimates of 40 million infected (11.8 million youth), 4 to 5 million new infections each year, and 3 million dead this year alone.

Schwartlander gloomily reviewed the impact of the epidemic in Africa, especially places like South Africa with the largest number of people infected by HIV in the world and where the number of children orphaned by AIDS now stands at 700,000 and is estimated to hit 2 million at the end of the decade. Some areas of Southern Africa are already seeing one in four children orphaned by AIDS. HIV infection rates in some areas near 20 percent of the region's population. In clinics in South Africa, 25 percent of pregnant women present with HIV, in places in Botswana that number rises to 40 percent.

Next came Bob Siliciano, professor of medicine and molecular biology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, who gave a good HIV 101 lecture and ended his talk, based on current knowledge, with these words: "HIV is intrinsically incurable with antiretroviral therapy alone."

That current knowledge was derived in no small way from Siliciano's own work. In 1995, Siliciano's lab showed that latently infected CD4 T-cells were present in patients with HIV infection despite prolonged therapy. This led to a repudiation of the complete eradication theory proffered by David Ho, a former *Time* magazine man-of-the-year from the Aaron Diamond Institute in New York.

According to conference materials, Siliciano's work "has led to a rethinking of current treatment strategies." The final repudiating nail in Ho's "hit it hard, hit it early" strategy, came only weeks ago as CDC guidelines to defer treatment initiation were revised downwards from the prior 350 CD4 benchmark to the newer and lower

200 standard. In subsequent presentations during the conference, some speakers even suggested that patients who went on drugs based on the older recommendation when their CD4s dipped below 350 but whose levels still remain above the new and revised 200 standard, might consider discontinuing them for now.

Finally, Milly Katana rose to speak. A PWA from Uganda, Katana's work bespeaks a knowledgeable and veteran activist on the frontline of the epidemic: lobbying and advocacy officer of the Health Rights Action Group in Uganda, project manager for the Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda, board member of the Global Network of People Living with HIV, and a developing country board member to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Katana has mobilized resources for healthcare delivery in this devastated area of the world, designed training programs for people living with HIV, helped combat HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination in her country, implemented prevention campaigns in institutions and schools, the police, army, and in prisons. Her conference bio states: "Today, Milly is engaged in the international campaign for access to treatment in the wake of an intensifying epidemic which badly needed a change in focus from prevention alone to addressing the care needs for those affected and infected by HIV/AIDS..."

Before Katana uttered a word and barely one hour into this first substantive part of the conference, however, the audience made for the door en masse. Katana was scheduled to speak for only 25 minutes but that seemed to matter little to these fine individuals. With all the rhetoric about the global AIDS crisis and with these participants supposedly the right target audience, you would have thought they would have foregone their espresso break before the conference presentations began in earnest to hear the wisdom this fine woman brought.

I suppose holding all those candles the night before was just too exhausting for these dedicated folks fighting the good fight. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

LGBTI health summit this month

by Liz Highleyman

A new conference focusing on queer health will take place this month, August 21-25, in Boulder, Colorado. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Health Summit will bring together hundreds of advocates, medical professionals, service providers, researchers, policy makers, public health officials, health activists, and others to discuss the broad spectrum of health issues of interest to the queer community.

With more than 175 workshops, institutes, panel discussions, and plenary sessions featuring many well-known researchers, authors, and health advocates, summit participants will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of issues relevant to all facets of the community, ranging from the health needs of queer youth and services for transgender people to lesbian and bisexual women facing menopause to gay men's aging issues and queer parenting.

The program will include current hot topics such as barebacking, circuit party drug use, microbicides, and medical marijuana, as well as in-depth analyses of ongoing issues such as racism, health disparities, domestic violence, and depression. There will be reports from the recent XIV International AIDS Conference in Barcelona and the queer disability conference held in San Francisco in June. Multiple sessions will address holistic health, spirituality, and, of course, sex and sexuality.

The summit will begin Wednesday, August 21 with full-day institutes including a "Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Leadership Institute," "TransHealth in the

New Millennium," "Sex Education You Didn't Have in High School," and a discussion of how queer theory can inform queer health. Key plenary sessions will address intersex issues and substance abuse and recovery.

The LGBTI Health Summit is the work of a coalition of organizers representing the broad diversity of the queer community. With the demise - after two decades - of the annual gay and lesbian health conference in the late 1990s, many felt the need for a new national gathering focused on queer health. Several summit organizers were instrumental in the creation of the Gay Men's Health Summits held in 1999 and 2000; that summit was not held in 2001, but instead gay health advocates were encouraged to organize regional meetings. Yet the desire for a national gathering encompassing the broader queer community continued to grow.

For the first time, the concerns of bisexual, transgender, and intersex people will be a major element of a queer health conference. According to organizing committee member and Bisexual Foundation Executive Director Luigi Ferrer, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people were involved in the planning of the conference from its inception.

"By making sure we're all represented," said Ferrer, "we can make sure we're asking the right questions about the community's health issues."

"I think we are at a place in our larger movement history where we understand that gender and sexuality are not so easy to slice up. Our edges are blurred. We need a large enough container to hold all of us because, quite frankly, no other distinctions really make sense," said Marj Plumb,

a summit organizer and longtime lesbian health advocate.

A key premise of the LGBTI Health Summit is to broaden the scope of queer health beyond a singular focus on HIV/AIDS, and to look further than pathologies and problems to address wellness and strengths in the queer community.

"The perception of LGBTI individuals is consistently framed in an HIV/AIDS framework or some other type of pathological framework such as suicide risk or substance abuse," noted Monica McEmore, a bisexual health advocate and nurse who is also a member of the organizing committee. "A multidisciplinary conference on health issues can bring forward a research and health agenda independent of pathology and begin to address the health-care needs and eliminate disparities in care."

Summit organizers hope the gathering will spur the creation of a grassroots LGBTI health movement on the local, regional, and national levels. To that end, there will be numerous sessions covering community organizing, political activism, and skills-building, as well as several discussions of the next steps to take.

"The previous gay and lesbian health conferences were important to the professionalization of the queer health movement, but did very little to actually help build grassroots, locally driven, queer health organizing," said Plumb. "What the Gay Men's Health Summit did was push right out of that box and begin to build a space for local organizers to come together to support each other, learn from each other, and then go back home and organize their communities. We've been talking about this model for a long

time. The boys figured out how to do it, and now they are sharing it with the rest of us."

"We are starting to launch a grassroots queer health movement that has different a politics and vision than the earlier gay health movement of the 1970s, and I'm excited to see what will emerge out of Boulder," said longtime community organizer and professor Eric Rofes, a convener of both the gay men's and LGBTI health summits. "I expect we'll

have a new, more diverse leadership of queers who understand in powerful ways the politics of health and the risks of professionalizing queer health." ▼

The registration fee for the conference is \$150. For more information or to register, visit www.healthsummit2002.org, call (303) 444-6121, or send e-mail to email@healthsummit.org.

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Stop AIDS

◀ page 1

Francisco," she said. "This agency invests a good deal of time and effort in making sure the men who attend our workshops understand the risks of unsafe sex."

In Gerberding's August 2 letter to the agency, she stated that she is "sending a CDC team to [the agency] to assess whether these programs are not only scientifically sound, but also consistent with" federal guidelines governing how agencies can spend federal funding on AIDS-related programs. The CDC is funding the agency \$225,000 annually over five years through 2004.

CDC officials did not return calls seeking comment about the investigation.

But Gerberding stated that the reason for the review is because the "CDC continues to receive complaints in reference to Stop AIDS organization's HIV educational sessions and materials."

As was the case with the evaluations of the Stop AIDS Project's programs last year, the latest round of questions stemmed from complaints lodged by San Francisco AIDS activist Michael Petrelis and conservative Republican lawmakers in Washington.

"This move is an excellent development," Petrelis told the *Washington Times*, adding, "I'd like HIV money spent on effective prevention programs. I don't see any scientific proof that the [Stop AIDS Project] programs are reducing HIV infections."

Petrelis is facing legal issues of

his own and has been charged in connection with alleged threats and harassment of city health officials and members of the media, including the *Bay Area Reporter*. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges and is awaiting a second preliminary hearing, after a judge dismissed some of the charges on a technicality earlier this year. Those charges were refuted.

Gabe Neville, a spokesman for Representative Joseph Pitts (R-Pennsylvania), one of three U.S. representatives who asked HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson to investigate the group last year, told the *Times* that the investigation was a "welcome development," adding, "It appears that many of the initiatives in this program are outrageous and not something that the taxpayers should be funding."

The paper quoted Representative Dave Weldon (R-Florida) as calling the CDC's efforts in San Francisco a "dismal failure," noting that although San Francisco receives "twice the amount of AIDS money as any other community," new infections have "doubl[ed]" over the last four years.

The Stop AIDS Project's newly hired program director, David Evans, said such comments are nothing new and would not cause the agency to change its programming.

"HIV has never been without controversy in the entire history of the epidemic," he said. "Of course it is frustrating. There is so much work that we have been doing and are continuing to do to meet the needs of our communi-

ties here."

Local health officials argue that the Stop AIDS Project's programs are proven to be effective and have been replicated by other agencies throughout the country. The workshops in question are what is needed here in San Francisco, these officials say.

"Every time we come up with a new campaign, someone challenges that as being a violation of CDC rules because of the kind of explicit nature of the prevention campaigns we come up with," said James Loyce Jr. the city's deputy director of health for AIDS programs. "In San Francisco, we believe the community standard allows us to come up with very explicit HIV transmission reduction messages."

Steven Tierney, the city's director of HIV prevention, added that he welcomes this latest round of questioning from federal officials. He said the questions raised in Gerberding's letter are valid.

"The only question is if the program is scientifically sound. That is a perfect question to ask programs if it is coming from a funder," he said. "I welcome those questions from the CDC. And in fact, they have been asking them all along. It is refocusing the debate back on the important issues."

Added Loyce, "Whether or not they come out here and can validate the position she is taking remains to be seen. They have come out here a number of times and failed to come up with anything. They have failed to give us any direction on how to change our strategy." ▼

Periskate-ia

by Jim Provenzano

The dramatic histrionics surrounding Olympic skating added a new chapter last week as an alleged Russian mobster was busted for fixing skating results.

The Salt Lake City 2002 Olympics, already marred by bid bribe scandals, became even more suspicious when judging for pairs skating was considered blatantly biased. A French official later admitted to back room deals with Russian judges.

After that news came out, Russian Olympians threatened to walk off in a huff. It would have been a pious cover, if not for last

week's arrest of Alimzan Tokhtakhounov in Forte dei Marmi, in Northern Italy. He was charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit bribery relating to sporting contests. He faces up to five years in prison and \$250,000 fine on each count.

Tokhtakhounov allegedly plotted to get the French judge to vote for the Russian pairs figure skating team of Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze. In exchange, he arranged for the Russian judge to vote for the French ice dancing team of Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat of France. Both pairs "won."

When fifth-place Lithuanians Margarita Drobiazko and Povilas Vanagas filed a protest questioning the voting, The International Skating Union rejected the protest.

Leonid Tygachev, the president of the Russian Olympic Committee, had complained in Salt Lake City about "non-objective" decisions by judges and officials in figure skating, ice hockey, and cross-country.

"You must seriously and objectively treat Russia as a good, clean sports nation ... there is a limit to everybody's patience," he said.

And a limit to hissy fits thrown by the likes of Tygachev, the ISU, IOC, and other skating bodies, now floating in a sort of cracking river of ice floes.

Anticipation, participation

1998's Gay Games skating events were marred by ISU and the Dutch Games hosts' failure to

get that event sanctioned, even with a waiver. No competitive-level medals were given out.

Yet through it all, lesbian and gay skaters continue to persevere, particularly in planning for Gay Games VI, and at the recent Skate Out, held in June in San Francisco.

A wide range of skaters performed, from adult novices to competitive-level performers.

"I'm glad the Olympics scandal happened because it might make the ISU more open to reforming across the board," said Bradley Erickson, a co-director of the International Gay Figure Skating Union.

Along with Laura Moore, one of the people responsible for skating's addition to Gay Games, the IGFSU promotes gay skating, as well as planning for events, and communication between athletes in this unique sport.

Also inspired after Gay Games IV, Erickson spent four years training in New York City with great hopes for Amsterdam, but along with others, was dismayed by the sanctioning/medals debacle.

"The reality was that figure skating was the only sport that didn't have an international sanction," said Erickson. "Sports like swimming have been having international gay meets for over 20 years. There is very little attention given to adult skating."

Thus, he's working with Moore and other skaters to ensure that future Games avoid such problems, primarily by going through the Ice Skating Institute, which was unfazed by working with a gay sports event. The ISI's rules also allow same-sex pairing.

For Moore, the Olympics scandal is far from the gay community's endeavors.

"No such scandal could befall us," she said. "At figure skating in the ISI, judges are not supplied by countries' governing bodies. Big money contracts are not on the line. For us, it is about participating and having fun."

Moore's interest in skating followed closely on the heels of her making major life changes, which included coming out after divorcing from a man.

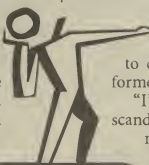
In preparation for Gay Games IV in New York, she worked to create the IGFSU, lobbying to get it included and then co-chairing it in Gay Games IV. Moore also sits on the board of directors of the Federation of Gay Games as a delegate from IGFSU, and was featured in the 1995 film, *Thin Ice*, about a fictional pair of lesbian skaters who participate in Gay Games IV.

She noted, however, that the filmmaker changed the actual results, which "made the actresses look like better skaters than us." Fortunately, Moore has had many opportunities to rectify that impression.

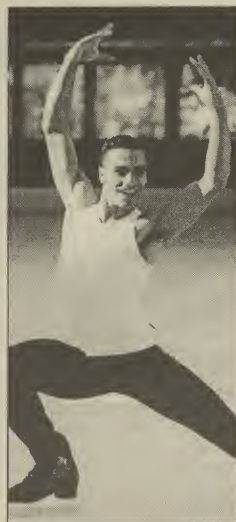
As the Sydney 2002 figure skating registration administrator, Erickson said, "I don't want a repeat of 1998. When the event is over, I want everyone to be completely satisfied with what they've done."

For Erickson, it's participation, not "hardware," that is his goal.

"Even though I've been skating now for eight years, I'm still a low level skater. I don't believe that I'll win any medals at the Games. But I will be elated if I know that the other skaters have the time of their lives."



Sports Complex



Free and Kheir: Olympic hopeful Billy Kheir

the pressures and diplomatic relationships one must have. He knows of some judges who may or may not be objective at competitions. "If you're gay, some may not like you for that. That's kind of sad."

One of the risks of being out is a possible loss of corporate sponsorship via product endorsements, something Kheir is aware of, but he prefers the comparative freedom of being out.

"If you're technically good, they can't deny that. As long as I skate my best, it's up to them."

You can donate to Billy Kheir and other skater's training costs via the New England Amateur Skating Foundation, PO Box 6881, Providence, Rhode Island 02940. Specify the name of the skater, or call (401) 861-9266 for more info.

Meet the new boss

Geoffrey Williams, the second CEO of the Sydney 2002 Gay Games, has resigned less than 100 days from the event's opening.

Offering "absolutely no comment" to Sydney 2002 staff, the *Sydney Star Observer* had an equally obtuse response from Sydney 2002 co-chairs, Bev Lange and Peter Bailey.

"Geoffrey has not provided a reason with his resignation," Lange told the Australian gay paper. "We've accepted it. Timing is not perfect for the organization, but that's the way it is."

"Geoffrey has resigned and the resignation is effective on 31 July," Bailey offered. "We're pleased with the status with where we're up to. We wish him well and we're delighted with the fact that he's as firmly committed to transition as he is."

The director of corporate services, Judith Fletcher, has been appointed acting CEO.

The paper's sources claim that Williams had a "problematic" working relationship with Lange. However, Lange was quick to reject that assertion.

Lange did confirm that Williams received a larger sum after leaving than a regular paycheck, but refused to reveal the amount.

"That's between Geoffrey and 2002 and it's inappropriate to talk about that publicly," Lange said.

Williams's departure marks the second time a Sydney 2002 chief executive officer has resigned within a month of a Federation of Gay Games meeting.

Sydney 2002's first CEO Garrie Gibson resigned from the position in November 2000, just two weeks after federation delegates from all over the world met up in Sydney for their annual conference.

However, at the same time that was happening, the then board of Sydney 2002 passed a vote of no confidence in Gibson's leadership.

The then federation co-president, Bill Wassmer, told the *Sydney Star Observer* months later that he reacted with shock when hearing of Gibson's resignation. Wassmer expressed dissatisfaction when a new administration, largely composed of former Mardi Gras organizers, took over the board in 2000. He was subsequently voted out as federation co-president, saying he was "forced to resign."

Sydney's Mardi Gras has been shaken by large-scale financial problems, which have resulted in programming cutbacks in both the parade and cultural events. Gay Games has reached 85 per-

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CLASSIFIEDS

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

cent capacity in registrations, and has extended the deadlines of several sports registrations. Info: www.sydnet2002.org.au.

Cups runneth

Budget cuts and resignations aside, many Bay Area folks have already made plans to go to Sydney, and are planning fundraisers of all kinds. Add yours, or find out more about others, at the Team San Francisco Web site, www.teamsf.org

Hoopla

New York Liberty basketball player Sue Wicks's coming out may not be enough for lesbian fans, who staged a kiss-in at Madison Square Garden last week during a nationally televised game against the Miami Sol.

"Are you tired of the WNBA and the New York Liberty denying that lesbians are packing Madison Square Garden week after week for women's basketball games?" read an e-mail sent by Lesbians for Liberty, the group that staged the smoochfest.

Although the Liberty boasts the only "out" general manager, Carol Blazejowski, and player, Wicks, in the entire league, they aren't openly courting the lesbian market enough for the activist group.

"They run away from using the word 'lesbian' at any of the games," said Robyn Overstreet, 22, an organizer of the oscular protest, which was predictably ignored by network cameras. ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

nis Cardoza up by more than 20 points over his GOP opponent, state Senator Dick Monteith, in the 18th District now represented by lame duck Congressman Gary Condit. Some state GOP leaders are said to be privately worried that a scheduled appearance by Vice President Dick Cheney on Monteith's behalf could actually damage the Republican chances further, particularly in view of lingering questions about Cheney's term as CEO of Halliburton and the investigation by the Securities & Exchange Commission of the accounting changes Cheney oversaw while at Halliburton.

In Michigan, the state Supreme Court last week ruled 4 to 3 that a Detroit police lieutenant who claimed she was discriminated against because she is a lesbian has no right to sue the city. The officer, Linda Mack, who has since retired, sued under a provision in the city charter that forbids discrimination based on sexual orientation, but the court ruled that the city could not legally enforce the provision because state law did not recognize sexual orientation claims.

Politics in this town are sometimes funny... very funny, and I've had the pleasure of writing about local politics for the past 20-some years, and actually, I kind of like all of them (really, folks, I do) but two of the best at City Hall have to be veteran Sheriff Mike Hennessey (a great guy, they don't come any better) and rookie City Attorney Dennis Herrera (a bright guy with an even brighter political future).

And how was your week? ▼

Got a political item you want in print? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com.

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

COME PARTICIPATE IN THE Department of Building Inspection

BROWN BAG LUNCH TALKS at 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001 (Second Floor), Third Thursday, Noon to 1:30 PM.

DBI welcomes you to attend a series of informal, general information talks presented at no charge to the public and City staff.

Date: August 15, 2002

Topic: Scaffolding, Ladders, and Barricades

Speakers: CalOSHA representative; Scaffolding Company representative; City Health and Safety Officer NOTE: Persons unable to attend are invited to mail their comments or questions, to request materials handed out, or to call and speak with department staff. Please contact Laurence M. Kornfield, Chief Building Inspector, Technical Services Division at 558-6205 for further information.

BLACK INFANT HEALTH PROGRAM

The Black Infant Health Improvement Program (Bi-hip) is a free program that provides supportive services to pregnant and parenting African American women with children up to 2 years of age. If you or someone you know is a woman that needs help finding a doctor, getting to appointments, connecting to community resources, preparing for a new baby, or just someone to talk to, please call Bi-hip at (415) 671-0214.

INVITATION FOR BIDS - Solicitation No: 02-020-IFB-034

The San Francisco Housing Authority will receive sealed bids for the Kitchen Range Hood and Cabinet Work at CAL 1-15, PING YUEN, located in San Francisco.

Contract documents will be available for inspection or issuance at 1815 Egbert Avenue, Suite 300, San Francisco, California, on or after July 29, 2002. A processing fee of \$50.00 (non-refundable) will be required for each set of documents.

A site inspection will be held at the Housing Development on Thursday, August 8, 2002, at 10:00 a.m., with a pre bid conference to follow. Prospective bidders will meet at the gate to 795 Pacific Street, in San Francisco.

All bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. (PST), August 20, 2002 and read aloud on that date.

Questions regarding this solicitation for bids may be directed to David Leash, Senior Project Manager, at (415) 715-5940.

Contact Rosina at (415) 715-3212 for contract documents.

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS - Solicitation No: 02-020-RFQ-032

The San Francisco Housing Authority (Authority) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications from professional firms to provide Aesthetics Consultant Services at the Authority's Developments in the City and County of San Francisco, California.

Responses to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) are due August 26, 2002.

2 PM at the Authority's office located at 440 Turk Street, San Francisco.

For interest or (415) 554-1258, or e-mail chanj@sfha.org to request a copy by mail or electronic e-mail transmittal.

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to better serve public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspaper for errors and omissions.

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Qualifications #223

Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFHHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from individuals interested in contracting to serve as the Project Manager for the Greenbook Initiative. The Greenbook Initiative is a collaborative of public and private agencies working to establish supports and services for families experiencing domestic violence and child maltreatment. This position will be housed at the San Francisco City and County Department of Human Services (DHS) under the direct supervision of the Greenbook Project Director. In consultation with the Project Director, the Project Manager will be responsible for staffing the activities of the different project components. The Project Manager will support a variety of activities that are pertinent to the implementation of the initiative.

The contract period will run from 10/1/02 to 10/30/03 for an amount not to exceed \$61,000.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFHHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, Friday, August 9, 2002. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

The RFQ packet and subsequent updates may be downloaded from the City's website on or after August 9, 2002. Go to <http://SUNSET.CS.FSCA.US/PBIDS.NSF> and click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link.

08/08/02

CNS-427822#

BAY AREA REPORTER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-02-540363

In the Matter of the Application of Catherine Kohua Sun for Catrina Chi-Yuan Sun For change of Name. The application of Catrina Chi-Yuan Sun for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Catrina Chi-Yuan Sun has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Catrina Chi-Yuan Sun-Tan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 12th day of September, 2002 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JULY 18, 25, AUGUST 1, 8, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259205

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kravet Fabrics, Le Jofa, Kravet Furniture, Private Label Textiles, Galleria Design Center, 101 Henry Adams Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Lisa Kravet, Vice President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/12/2002.

JULY 25, AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 2002



City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Qualifications #220
(Release of RFQ #214)

Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco, Department of Human Services (SFHHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from individuals, agencies or organizations to provide advocacy services to clients in Shelters and Transitional Housing Programs.

The contract period will be from October 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004. The amount of the contract ranges from \$70,000 to \$300,000 per year (amount will be posted for 9 months for the period from October 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003) for two advocate positions.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFHHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, on or after Friday August 2, 2002. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFQ packets will also be available on the Internet at <http://www.sfgov.org/ocm/purchasing.htm> click "BIDS and Contracts Database", then the "Consultants and Professional Services" link and look for RFP #220.

The Respondent's Conference will be held on August 16, 2002 at 11 AM at Dept. of Human Services, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, CA. For further information, call Patsy Yan at (415) 557-6523. Due date for responses is August 26, 2002 at 5:00 PM. NO EXCEPTIONS

08/08/02

CNS-428029#

BAY AREA REPORTER

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF RFP'S

The San Francisco Department of Human Services announces that RFP #221 and #222 have been postponed and will be reissued at later date.

08/08/02

CNS-427822#

BAY AREA REPORTER

STATEMENT FILE 258908

The following person(s) are doing business as: Nob Hill Tavern 1390 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Stephanie Ann Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/01/02.

JULY 18, 25, AUGUST 1, 8, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 258700

The following person(s) are doing business as: Danya Enterprises 468 Tehama Street, Apt. 7, San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Daniel Robinson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06/23/02.

JULY 18, 25, AUGUST 1, 8, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259340

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lucky Deli. One Bush Street Basement Level, San Francisco, CA 94104. This business is conducted by an individual signed Tony Chow. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/12/2002.

JULY 25, AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259201

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ibarra's Carpet Cleaning, 350 Turk Street Apt. #1611, San Francisco, CA. 94109. This business is conducted by co-partners signed Raul Ibarra and Juan Ibarra. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/12/2002.

JULY 25, AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259383

The following person(s) are doing business as: Elevation Records, 760 Bacon #3, San Francisco, CA. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jason Walker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 18, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/18/2002.

JULY 25, AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259372

The following person(s) are doing business as: Alabaster, 597 Hayes Street, San Francisco, CA. 94102. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Nelson Bloncourt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 15, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/15/2002.

JULY 25, AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 2002

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 217568

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Alabaster. Located at: 597 Hayes Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: September 23, 1997. This business was conducted by: Limited Liability Company.

JULY 25, AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259427

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fitz Training & Consulting, 26 Museum Way, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Brian J. Fitzgibbons. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 22, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/22/2002.

AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259384

The following person(s) are doing business as: Emile's, 2230 22nd Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Emile Ferreboeuf. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 18, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/18/2002.

AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259553

The following person(s) are doing business as: EverGreen Cafe, 645 Clay Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Benjamin Wu and Jenny Zhong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/25/2002.

AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259443

The following person(s) are doing business as: Grace Culture and Book Collections, 3600 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Naghme Amir Alikhani. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 08, 1997. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/22/2002.

AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259508

The following person(s) are doing business as: ArtGeko Design, 486 Funston Avenue, Apt. #104, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Colleen Ceven. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/24/2002.

AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259640

The following person(s) are doing business as: Digital Memories, 4220 Cesar Chavez #211, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed David A. Lara. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 26, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/29/2002.

AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259653

The following person(s) are doing business as: Stephanie's Businesscom, 310 Arleta Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Tanya M. Johnson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/29/2002.

AUGUST 8, 15, 22, 29 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259753

The following person(s) are doing business as: Dopamine Productions, LP, 854 Folsom Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a limited partnership signed Mark Decena, co-president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 06, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/31/2002.

AUGUST 8, 15, 22, 29 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 02-540377

In the Matter of the Application of Thomas Paul Shuster. For change of Name. The application of Thomas Paul Shuster for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Thomas Paul Shuster has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Zoe Olivia Corsi. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 23rd day of September at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22, 2002

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 259725

The following person(s) are doing business as: Funding Solutions Ltd. 60 Berkeley Way, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Gary Thomas Hackett and Melinda Frances Washmera. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on July 29, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/31/2002. AUGUST 8, 15, 22, 29 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259731

The following person(s) are doing business as: Triangle Studio. 2573 Harrison Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110-2719. This business is conducted by an individual signed Howard M. Thornton. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 1, 1993. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/31/2002. AUGUST 8, 15, 22, 29 2002

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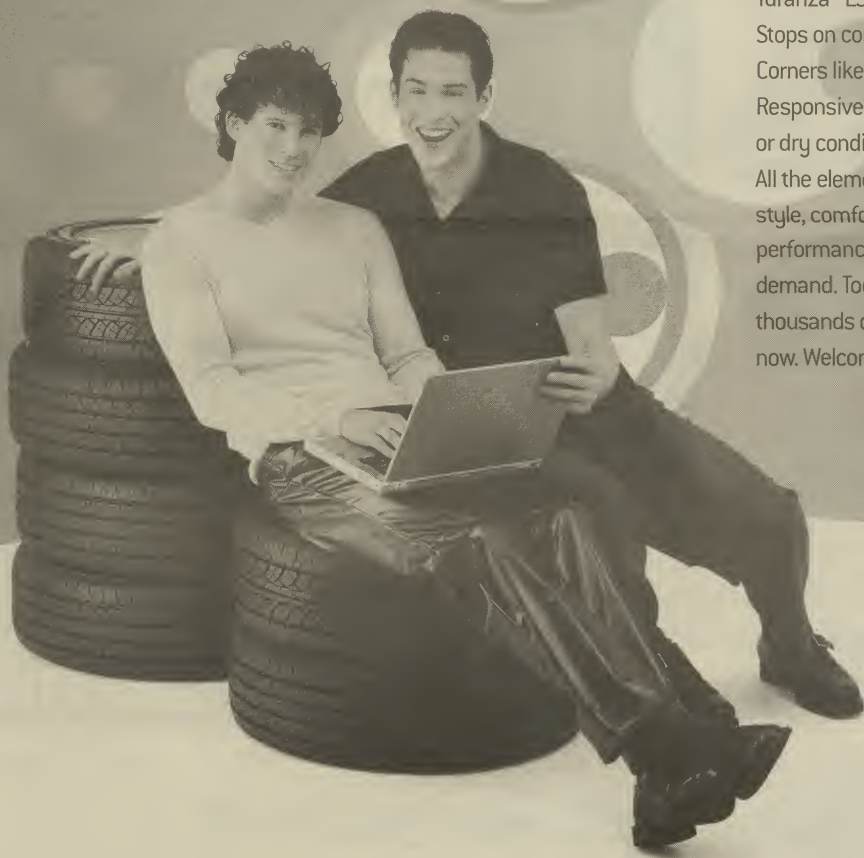
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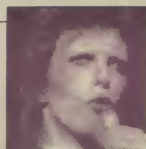
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Learning how to laugh in harmony
All-male vocal ensemble Chanticleer performs work of Comedian Harmonists.
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Mormonsexuality
Steven Fales' 'Confessions of a Mormon Boy' opens.
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'Stardust' memories
David Bowie as Ziggy Stardust plays the Castro.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 32 • 8 August 2002

Life beyond Rhoda

Valerie Harper takes the San Francisco stage in 'The Tale of the Allergist's Wife'

by Richard Dodds

Valerie Harper gave a little tug on her modest wattle. "Look," she said, "my neck is doing stuff." Then her fingers went to the creases on each side of her mouth. "I could certainly have collagen, and maybe I should."

So far, she said, her still-youthful face has remained untouched by any cosmetic surgeon's hand. She has seen too many friends and colleagues who "end up looking like a lizard in the sun, or like you're standing in the wind."

Although a makeup woman was on duty during Harper's recent visit to the city, refreshing a palette of earthtone between interviews, it's still hard to believe that Harper is 61 years old. In fact, she'll turn 62 this month in San Francisco during her run in *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*.

The forever-Rhoda actress has just begun a tour as the star of Charles Busch's hit Broadway comedy, playing a character who she says could have come from the same neighborhood as the Morgenstern family. Marjorie is a disaffected upscale New Yorker with a great apartment and a successful doctor-husband who has developed a depression of theatrical dimensions.

"She's a complete drama queen," Harper said of her stage counterpart.

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Joan Marcus



Robert Evans (left) and Jack Nicholson in *The Kid Stays in the Picture*

'I wasn't Rock Hudson's lover!'

Confronting Hollywood producer Robert Evans by Brandon Judell

Looking like a slightly less well-preserved George Hamilton, the "legendary" producer and former studio head Robert Evans came to New York City the other day to promote the documentary that was all about him. *The Kid Stays in the Picture*, which opens with the quote that "there are three sides to every story: your side, my side, and the truth," is pretty much Evans' side. But since Evans is such a fascinating, egotistical yet self-effacing, witty, possibly brilliant, Machiavellian gent, you'll be more than satisfied with his side of the story.

Surprisingly, the man responsible for *Love Story*, *Chinatown*, and *The Godfather* wasn't exactly satisfied himself with how he came off when he first saw *The Kid*. Evans cheered up, however, when he got standing ovations at Sundance and, for 11 minutes, at Cannes.

"Wrong, 15," says Evans. "Did you know I was sick in Cannes? I had pneumonia the week before. Still, it was the most exciting experience of my life. I heard, and I don't know if it's true, that I received the second-longest standing ovation ever there. I felt I was hallucinating while it was happening. I cried. I couldn't help it. I could hardly walk. I tripped right afterwards. My legs aren't that good to begin with. I was shaking. Do you know who started the ovation? A man who doesn't applaud very much, Barry Diller. He stood up first and started applauding so loudly. He was so excited, and everyone then stood up and wouldn't stop. I couldn't believe it was happening. I had 101 fever. My whole body was trembling. It was certainly the most emotional experience that I've had. Good emotional experience that I've had. I've had a lot of bad

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and Water-Taxi Maxie

Does the O in HBO stand for Overreaction? News leaked last week that the cable network has backed out of a documentary by SF filmmakers **Rob Epstein** and **Jeffrey Friedman** about five gay men sharing a summer house in the Pines on Fire Island. The network was apparently bowing to pressure from a University of Pennsylvania law-school dean who summers there with his better half. The mean dean feared that "The Fire Island Project" would inadvertently "out" gay residents of the Pines who don't want to be public with their sexuality. On Fire Island. Well, boo-hoo for them.

Out There's greater fear was that Epstein and Friedman would follow people around the dunes after sunset, sort of like *The Blair Witch Project*, but then turn off the digicams just when someone was about to get some booty. But the filming that did go on, all two weekends of it, seems to have been pretty tame in comparison, just a bunch of bourgeois queens in their thirties and their melodramas, zzzz. OT thinks the filmmakers should make a plus out of a minus, ditch the house-share, and switch over to filming the

denizens of Fire Island's **Meat Rack**.

John inflation

We all think it's just great that **Sir Elton John** will be the guest of honor at a SF benefit for the Elton John AIDS Foundation in the fall. Sir Elton will perform at



Pay a stiff price to see Sir Elton.

the event, set for the California Palace of the Legion of Honor on Oct. 16, and attendees are said to include pioneering gay Ambassador **James C. Hormel** and *Chronicle* wife **Sharon Stone**, who once had a film career.

Here's the amazing part of the

item: tickets to the shin-dig begin at \$2,500 apiece. Twenty-five hundred clams! Who in the world can afford that, other than discredited CEOs? The evening is called "An Enduring Vision," and we think we know the name of that vision: it has dollar-signs in its eyes. Oh well, we're sure we'll read about it in the **Tick** column. For more information: www.ejaf.org.

Just call us **Cindy Syndicate**: An executive producer for new NBC sitcom *Good Morning, Miami*, **Max Mutchnick**, also a creator of *Will & Grace*, was asked at the recent TV-critic press-tour in Pasadena why there are no new gay characters on any of the series the networks have planned for the fall. He told the TV critics that he had just got back from "the Mafia meeting," and the **gay dons** said it was okay to take a break from gay characters. Ha ha. We've just come from a sit-down with the capos, who sent out some boys to smoke his show.

Trial by interview

Veteran gay author **Boze Hadleigh**'s new book *Celluloid Gaze*, just out from *Limelight Editions*, is really a reprint of his 1987 book *Conversations with My Elders*, re-named because no one understood the first title. As Hadleigh notes in the preface to the foreword to the introduction, since interviewees **Sal Mineo** and **Rainer Werner Fassbinder** died at 37, he is now their elder. OT hastens to add: *by a long shot*.



Out There

Granted, the Mineo interview runs sweet. When asked how he

accounts for his youthful appearance, Sal says good genes, then spells it out so it's clear he doesn't mean denim. When BH wonders if approaching middle age bothers him, Mineo quotes **Mae West**: "Does it bother you?"

Yes, the subjects of these interviews are candid or campy, but because they are all rendered in reporter-centric Q&A format, we end up getting a lot of Boze along with our luminary. To Fassbinder: "Well, since you did mention sex, what is your sex life like? Are you kinky, for instance?"

[RWF: "You think now that all German gays live like in the film *Taxi zum Klo*?"

[BH: "What does your sex life say about you, Rainer?"

[RWF: "That I am horny."

[BH: "Very kinky?"

[RWF: "I don't like to be tortured. I can do that to myself."

[BH: "Are drugs sometimes a substitute for sex?"

This is just what our lawyerly friends call leading the witness. Hadleigh also torments **Luchino Visconti**, **Cecil Beaton**, **George Cukor** and **Rock Hudson**, with similar results.



Footbaggers do it with their feet: Coming soon to the Embarcadero.

Bag reflex

If you see a bunch of guys with their legs up in the air at Justin Herman Plaza this weekend, it's possible you've stumbled upon the 24th Annual **World Footbag Championships**, the pinnacle of athleticism in the popular sport known in the common parlance as "hackysack."

There are two championship footbag events, in Freestyle, described as "like gymnastics or figure-skating — with an edge!" at the Palace of Fine Arts; and Net, called "volleyball with your feet!" at JH Plaza. The world's greatest footbag players are converging on SF from places like Slovenia, Venezuela and Korea, and you can be there, too. Next year's championship will take place in Prague. Info: 522-9899, or www.footbag.org/worlds2002.

Squid ink

Thousands of **jumbo flying squid** measuring up to 2-feet long washed ashore last month at a La Jolla beach near San Diego, to the surprise of surfers and swimmers. Workers removed 12 tons of dead and dying squid stranded at La Jolla Cove in July. That's a lot of fried calamari!

Scientist **Eric Hochberg** with the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum told reporters that he believes the tentacled mollusks were stranded while chasing a school of grunion, whatever those are.

Beachgoer **Bill Halsey** elaborated, "They made these strange noises like a dolphin or a seal as they were dying."

Out There's favorite soundbite came from beachcomber **Cliff Williams**, quoted as saying, "The thing that weirds me out about the squid is that they have humanlike eyeballs."

The jumbo flying squid, which go by the scientific moniker *Dosidicus gigas*, are coming north of their usual nesting places with El Niño's warm water currents. But didn't we ask for tartar sauce with that?

Underpants patrol

The *Washington Post* last week ran the following correction. "An Associated Press item that appeared in the July 11 *Crime & Justice* column reported incorrectly that **Marc Danselme** had exposed himself while being searched at Miami International Airport. When security workers asked Danselme, a French national who lives in Washington, to remove his belt, he dropped his pants and was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct. The item implied that Danselme wore nothing under his pants. In fact, he was wearing underwear, a police spokesman said."

We're going to take our HIV+ Muppet and our French bikini briefs, and go home now! ▼

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THEATRE

Gay icons meet eternity

In Jeffrey Hartgraves' 'Carved in Stone'

by Richard Dodds

Fear of death brought Jeffrey Hartgraves to San Francisco, and fear of non-stop wacky quacky action convinced him it was time to quit his day job after he got here.

It was seven years ago that Hartgraves, author of the celestially gay comedy *Carved in Stone*, fled his native Arizona after a brush with death. "I looked at my partner and said, 'Dying in Arizona is redundant.' Thirty days later, we were here."

Hartgraves landed a full-time job writing ad copy, but that came to an end the day he wrote a TV commercial promising consumers "non-stop wacky quacky action."

"The money is good," he said, "but it's not that good."

Now he writes what he wants to write, be it fiction or poetry or drama, and one of the results of this creative freedom is the play *Carved in Stone*, opening Aug. 9 at the Eureka Theatre. It is a farcical paean to the mentors of most contemporary gay writers: Tennessee Williams, Oscar Wilde, Truman Capote, and Quentin Crisp.

The play is set in the afterlife, at a crossroads where not only the

above foursome congregate, but through which pass such other pop and historical icons as Judy Garland, Bette Davis, and William Shakespeare.

"We have this kind of wonky elevator, which is sort of Dr. Seussical, that leads into this room. Our concept of the afterlife is that you could run into anyone who you might have something in common with. Which also explains why Bette Davis and William Shakespeare end up coming off that elevator together. I have no idea what I was drinking the night I wrote that."

Actually, Hartgraves did considerable research into his subjects, making sure that the attitudes and philosophies he attributes to them are accurate. "And the actors have also been amazing as far as the research they've been doing," Hartgraves said.

Hartgraves happens to be one of those actors, playing Tennessee Williams, and it is the actor playing Quentin Crisp who spurred him to write the play in the first place.

"Leon Acord called me one night and he said, 'I would really like to play Quentin Crisp, and you should write me a solo show.' Twenty minutes later, I called him back and said, 'I really have an in-

teresting idea, and the bad news is that it's not a solo show.'"

If Acord flinched, it was only momentarily. He is not only still playing Crisp, but he is also co-producing the play with Hartgraves.

Acord and Hartgraves got acquainted when both were acting in Ronnie Larsen's *A Few Gay Men*, and that cast also provided the new show's director, John Fisher, and its Truman Capote, P.A. Cooley. Matt Weimer is playing Oscar Wilde, with Matthew Martin and Drew Todd playing all the other famous souls passing through.

There is one more character, the young protagonist who is also gay and also a writer, played by David Tenenbaum. "The show is about assumptions," Hartgraves said. "When this new guy shows up, all these wonderful intellects believe they know who and what he is, but the more information that's revealed, the more these people have to start changing their perspective."

The play is by turns serious, campy, bitchy, and funny. "And with John Fisher involved, it keeps getting funnier every day," the actor-playwright said. "It's actually a farce, in a manner of speaking. It's hyperrealism. And when you take people who are already caricatures in people's minds, pushing it that little extra bit wasn't really difficult."

Hartgraves has only lately got involved in San Francisco theater,



Playwright Hartgraves: 'I have no idea what I was drinking that night.'

a scene he found to be "clique-y" when he first got here. "When it gets to the point where people can't see what you're trying to do, then you just go and do it yourself," he said. "I have a hard time with the concept of vanity productions, but I'm not bothered so much with this piece because if enough other people hadn't entered the fray, it probably wouldn't be happening."

But then again, it might. A past regret has convinced him to never let dreams slip away again.

"It's a horrible story," Hartgraves said. "I started doing gay standup comedy in 1982 in Phoenix, and I was actually asked to come to Los Angeles and audi-

tion for the Carson show. But I was in a bad relationship at the time, and I ended up not going. Isn't that pathetic?"

"But you know what's great about it? Nothing really, but I can rationalize it to some extent. It is a moment in my life that I always look back on and say, 'You know how much you regretted that. Don't do it again.' So every time I have an idea and really believe in it, absolutely nothing will stop me." ▼

Carved in Stone will run Aug. 9-31 at the Eureka Theatre. Tickets are \$17-\$20. Call 778-4077.

Playing dumb

'Off White Party Weekend'

by Richard Dodds

A notable number of the opening-night audience for *Off White Party Weekend* arrived with bouquets of flowers, signaling the presence of friends and family of the cast. This partisan crowd seemed sufficiently amused, but it would be hard to recommend this ramshackle comedy to anyone without these ties.

The title of the Half Baked Players production suggests a send-up of circuit parties, which could be fun, but the core plot is actually a taxing tale of business skulduggery during the dot.com boom. Not that the script by Robin Goldsmith, Garret Jon Groenveld, and John Morace takes that subject, or anything else, seriously.

This is theater of the silly, which has its place when skillfully crafted and presented, but that becomes adolescently amateurish without a solid foundation. Moments of humor and genuine wit do occasionally poke through in this production, sometimes provided by the writers and director Morace, and at other times emerging from the fitfully inspired cast.

Set in 1999 in the San Francisco offices of Icevan.com, and in "Pom Pom Springs," where the entire staff of Icevan.com heads for a party weekend, the story revolves around the battle to possess a high-tech "end-user interface." Romances, real and faux, spring from this competition, but again, nothing suggests that the writers consider the plot as anything but a framework for a juvenile burlesque of basic theatrical forms.

The show also comes with songs by the authors that occa-



Off White: theatre of the silly.

sionally hit a note of proper parody, but which usually meander in their lackluster presentations by the cast of non-singers. At other times, they are downright bizarre, as in an ominous dirge in which the cast, in business suits, intone, "We are the company men," before pointing guns at the audience. But nothing tops the audacity of the final song, which is presented, seriously I think, as a kind of "Up with People" anthem.

"I wish all the pie in the sky was mine, and you could have some anytime," the cast sings out to the audience. But everything that comes before this finale suggests a pie-in-the-face mentality. If you're going to play dumb, at least do it consistently. ▼

Off White Party Weekend will run at Theatre Rhino through Aug. 25. Tickets are \$18-\$24. Call 861-5079.

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Blind trust

'Happy Times' in Beijing

by David Lamble

Two old friends, men in their 50s, meet to discuss the fickle nature of love. Zhao (played by the popular Chinese comedian Zhao Benshan) is not exactly in love, but a deeply practical man, he thinks he's found a woman with whom to spend his golden years, a large woman, a very large woman. His buddy Li (the veteran Li Xuejian, never cracking a smile in this comedy of manners) tells Zhao, "I thought you liked skinny women." "Yes, my friend, but they don't like me."

Happy Times (the title is more than ironic) is veteran director Zhang Yimou's understated comedy about the attempts of a middle-aged pensioner to bamboozle a gold-digging divorcee into thinking that he is the wealthy manager of a prosperous hotel. The "hotel," in fact, is an abandoned schoolbus which Zhao and Li have converted into a sex-pad

for horny young couples. Zhao is actually too prudish to allow his clients the one thing they crave: an empty bed behind a closed door.

The divorcee (Dong Lifan) has plans of her own. Living in a garishly decorated apartment with an overweight teenage son and a refrigerator crammed with Haagen-Dazs, the lady has one possession she doesn't need: a blind stepdaughter, misplaced in the fallout from an earlier affair. The girl, Wu Ying (ingenue Dong Jie, who won the part as one of 40,000 applicants in an Internet-circulated casting call), is director Zhang's ace in the hole. Cursed with a wicked stepmother and a well-meaning but feckless dad who split to seek his fortune in a provincial boomtown, Wu, although sightless, has few illusions. While hoping that her father will return with the money to restore her vision, she's shrewd enough to sense that she's adrift in a world populated by knaves and fools.

Urged by the woman he hopes



Zhao Benshan (left) as Zhao, Dong Jie as Wu Ying in Zhang Yimou's *Happy Times*: treading a fine line.

will be his sugarbabe to find a job for Wu in his hotel (the old bus has been hauled away to the city dump), Zhao creates another masquerade. With a few simple props — a wooden table, blank pieces of paper that a blind person might mistake for money, and a large boombox to fake the sounds of a busy street life — Zhao persuades Wu, for whom he's developing a

kind fatherly affection, that she is a masseuse, with bony, weary, and good-tipping clients. In a sad/funny scene that is the film's signature, Wu starts projecting her tip income to levels that approach the Chinese Gross National Product.

Beginning with a premise that would have been red meat in the claws of W.C. Fields, director Zhang opts for pathos over farce.

Happy Times should be viewed for the charming and chaste courtship between Wu and Zhao, their scenes treading the often thin line between illusion and reality, dreams and false hope, to create a touching portrait of a daughter/father relationship in a cruel, chaotic society that often seems to wish that it had no daughters. Now playing. ▽



David Bowie as Ziggy Stardust: a lot of very dark concert footage.

Arachnophobia

'Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars'

by Brandon Judell

There was a time when David Bowie was an empowering gay icon. Yes, back in the early '70s, Bowie went all glittery and transgendered and wrote the tune "All the Young Dudes." On stage, he wore loads of makeup, form-fitting women's clothing and, well, then there was his super-svelte body. This was sexually ambiguous glam-rock.

It wasn't until years later, when his former wife Angie wrote her memoirs, that we learned that she once found Bowie in bed with Mick Jagger. No one was surprised except the cover of the *New York Post*, but it was nice to hear our deepest erotic suspicions confirmed.

Anyway, way back on July 3, 1973, documentary filmmaker

D.A. Pennebaker shot Bowie's last performance of his *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars*. The venue: London's Hammersmith Odeon.

Sadly, this digitally remastered concert footage feels as long as the title. With very little backstage coverage, the only times this flick really comes alive, we have David singing and singing and singing. Some of the songs are great ("Rock 'N' Roll Suicide"), others a lot less so.

But what's so maddening here is that Pennebaker doesn't understand what Bowie is accomplishing. His cameras could have been focused on a football game and achieved the same effect. He never captures the rebellious sensuousness of what the rocker is trying to do. His cameras even seem to run away when Bowie tries to get a little sexual.

So what we're left with is very dark concert footage, with a color palette of blacks and reds. It's boring to the eye, and your mind eventually shuts off from the visual monotony. I won't even go into the audience shots, which are really dreadful.

In the end, there is absolutely no reason to rerelease this film in theaters. It's poor filmmaking of little interest except to the most rabid Bowie fans. If Pennebaker insists on cleaning out his closet in the future, he should stick his tedious archival footage on DVDs, where his and his subjects' reputation have less chance of being marred. ▽

Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars plays the Castro Theatre Aug. 9-15.

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©2002 2002. Photo: David Allen

The ego has landed

Robert Evans 'Stays in the Picture'

by Robert Julian

When *Vanity Fair* Editor-in-Chief Graydon Carter produces a documentary like *The Kid Stays in the Picture*, you can be reasonably certain there will be more glitz than grit. In this respect, Carter's illumination of the life of Hollywood actor/producer Robert Evans does not disappoint. Directors and co-producers Brett Morgen and Nanette Burstein create a visually compelling portrait of an egomaniac, with Evans providing the voiceover narration for *The Kid Stays in the Picture*, based on his 1994 autobiography of the same name.

Robert Evans, who is now 72, is one of those exceedingly vain moguls with skin too tan, teeth too white, and a face that has been lifted too often. But we never see the present-day Robert Evans in

this motion picture; instead, we get glamorous shots of a more youthful Evans, a young man discovered by Norma Shearer while they were both lounging around the pool at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Evans had a brief career as an actor in Hollywood films from 1957-'59. He was a lousy actor, but through a series of fortuitous events, he segued into motion picture production and ended up as head of Paramount Studios for many years. In his heyday, Evans churned out an impressive roster of hits, including *The Godfather*, *Love Story*, *Rosemary's Baby*, *Chinatown*, and *Harold and Maude*.

The documentary spends most of its time blowing smoke up the posterior of its subject. At times it is so overwhelming, you expect Evans to pop off the screen like a runaway balloon, propelled toward the ceiling by his own expulsion of air. Evans' cocaine addiction is glossed over, and only

one of his five wives (Ali MacGraw) is mentioned. On one occasion, he refers to himself in the third person (never a good sign), and he repeatedly calls the women he dates "broads." Evans' personal denouement, *The Cotton Club* (1984), marks the point in which the boy wonder becomes a Hollywood pariah, and the 18 disappointing years that follow receive relatively scant attention from the filmmakers. At the end of the picture, the five films Evans produced since 1991 are listed, and they are an embarrassing collection of dogs.

The Kid Stays in the Picture is a vanity production, and as such, it is appropriately pretty. There are wonderful digital images that turn still photographs into 3D visuals, and some great archival footage from both television and film. For anyone interested in Hollywood history, this will be a must-see cinematic experience, but the Saturday-matinee crowd will be conspicuously absent from the box office. The best moments of the film come during the closing credits, with some old footage of Dustin Hoffman doing an impromptu impersonation of Robert Evans taking a phone call. Don't rush for the aisles too soon, because this segment alone is worth the price of admission. ▼

Opens Friday at the Embarcadero.



Ali MacGraw and Robert Evans in the '70s: blowing smoke.

Evans interview

◀ Arts cover

emotional experiences."

Like Ali MacGraw leaving him for Steve McQueen? Let's not go into that. Instead, let's address Robert La Tourneau's complaint. He's the late actor who died from AIDS and played Cowboy in the film *The Boys in the Band*. La Tourneau used to say he had been up for the lead in *Love Story*, but because he had played a homosexual hustler, he was put out of the running. Any truth to the tale?

"That's bullshit!" Evans responds.

Are you familiar with who's gay or not in Hollywood?

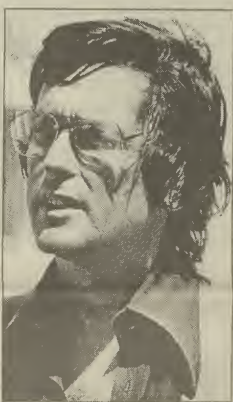
Evans laughs: "I could tell you. I belong to all those causes, so I go to the events. But you know in my era, color was a much bigger thing than gender. In the '70s, you couldn't get a guy to play opposite a black girl. I had a picture, *Atlanta*, that Beverly Johnson signed for. She was the top black world model. She was the first black girl to break through and get the cover of *Vogue*, *Harper's* and *Mademoiselle*. I was going to direct the picture, too, because I loved the story so much. Well, we couldn't get a white guy to play opposite her, with all the liberalism that's talked about. This was 1977. I was shocked. She was the most beautiful girl.

Adjoining Rock

"Today, that's not the case. There's been a great change. As far as homosexuality, ah, it doesn't matter a lot. In other words, let's take Rock Hudson, who was a great friend of mine. I have pictures of Rock and myself. I received the Photoplay Award in 1958. I won as the most promising newcomer of the year, and he won as the biggest star of the year. We posed in the pictures together.

"You know, we had adjoining Winnebagoes when he was making Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* and I was doing *The Sun Also Rises*. We were both shooting on the backlot, and we became good friends.

"Everybody knew Rock was gay, but at the time you had to hide it, so 10 years earlier, he had to marry a secretary or something. Maybe the public didn't know. The studio tried to keep it away from the public because in



Evans lives to tell his story.

Kansas City, they wouldn't accept it. Or in Texas, they wouldn't accept it. If you're producing, it becomes a financial situation.

"But as far as emotionally or creatively, it makes no difference today. I remember some of the guys we tested for the *Love Story* part. One was Chris Walken. We tested a lot of people for the part. I must tell you, I know two gay guys who tested. But there are more rumors that come out from people. From everybody."

Taking a sip of water, he continues: "Now, Richard Gere lived in my house for nine months doing *The Cotton Club*. That's when the gerbil story broke. That was a bullshit story. He was in India when it happened."

While Evans was slowly getting up to leave, I was able to sneak one more question to the man who gave birth to *Rosemary's Baby*: Did Rock ever hit on you?

Laughing, Evan replies: "No, he never did, really. But people certainly came back from our sets, and a lot of them said we were lovers. It's not true at all. In fact, he was a nice guy. No one was more perfect-looking than Rock. And a terrific guy! I was a kid back then, and it was my first picture, and there I'm looking at Rock Hudson, who's the biggest star in the world."

What if he had tried harder? Would he have gotten you?

At the door, Evans smiles and says, "There's an old saying that was said to me: 'Don't ask if you don't want to know.'"

But we do. ▼



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Chanticleer & The Comedian Harmonists

All-male vocal ensemble performs 'Between the Wars' in tribute

by Jason Serinus

If ever there were reason to smile, the delightful all-male German vocal ensemble originally named The Comedian Harmonists provide justification aplenty. The slogan coined by the German recording industry of the 1930s says it all: "The Comedian Harmonists teach you to laugh

again!"

Thanks to Eberhard Fedner's 1976 four-hour German television documentary on their work, Josef Vilsmaier's 1998 biopic *Harmonists*, and the recent Naxos bargain-price remastering *The Comedian Harmonists: Whistle While You Work*, which contains 19 original recordings made between 1929-38, The Comedian Harmonists live on.

The latest artistic entity to honor The Comedian Harmonists' achievement is Chanticleer, America's only full-time, professional vocal ensemble. The all-male group, whose singing is so highly prized that their annual

Xmas concert in New York City is already sold out, has slated five performances of *Between the Wars: The Art of The Comedian Harmonists* for four Bay Area locations in mid-August. If the outing proves a success, perhaps the ensemble, many of whose members are gay, will be tempted to take the show on the road.

From the first "Whistle While You Work" track on the Naxos disc, recorded in London in December 1938 by what was then called The Comedy Harmonists, one cannot fail but be charmed by the group's soft, impeccably tuned harmonies, delightfully accented English, chameleon-like imitation of instrumental sounds, good spirits and infectious wit. Indeed, the ensemble's members were so adept at singing, whistling, yodeling and imitating instruments that they made immensely successful, astoundingly realistic "all-instrumental" vocal recordings of "Creole Love Call" and "The Barber of Seville - Overture."

The idea to form what became Germany's first "boy-group" originated with German comedian and student actor Harry Frommmermann (1906-'75). While working in the USA in 1927 as Harry Frohman, the singer heard the Revelers, a male quartet whose style springs from the close harmonies of the minstrel and vaudeville traditions. After assimilating the Revelers' style and drafting various vocal arrangements, Frommmermann returned to Berlin.

In late December 1927, Frommmermann put an ad in a Berlin newspaper looking for voices suitable for an ensemble. From many applicants he chose Robert Biberli (1902-'85), the son of a Berlin opera basso, and a bass in the chorus line of the Charell-Revue. With the subsequent addition of Bulgarian high tenor Ari Leschnikoff (1897-'78), German second tenor Eric Abraham Collin (1899-1961), Polish baritone Josef Roman Cycowski (1911-'98) and German pianist/arranger Erwin Bootz (1907-'82), The Comedian Harmonists quintet gave its first performances in 1928.

Big draw on the Continent

By 1929, when their second set of Odeon recordings was released, The Comedian Harmonists had become a big draw, household names. They became so popular throughout Europe and the US that they recorded over 150 titles and made at least 13 pioneering talkie musicals (now lost) in the span of a few years.



In upcoming concerts, Chanticleer gives voice to an earlier vocal ensemble.

Alas, by 1932, their music, with its American and Jewish influences, had already been blacklisted by Germany's incoming Nazi regime as "Jewish-Marxist noise." In 1933, the Nazis declared three of the group's Jewish members "non-Aryan." Despite sell-out concerts, the group was banned in 1935 as "not in keeping with the cultural concepts of the Reich," and the Jewish members, including Frommmermann, were forced to leave the country. Miraculously, all survived.

The three "Aryan" Harmonists remained in Berlin, acquired new members, and with Nazi permission reformed as "The Meistersingert, formerly The Comedian Harmonists." Restricted by the Nazis to performing non-humorous material written solely by Aryans, they achieved only modest success.

Meanwhile, in Vienna, the Jewish refugees recruited new members and formed The Comedy Harmonists. Moving their base of

operations to Paris after the Nazi invasion of Austria, The Comedy Harmonists traveled throughout non-Nazi Europe, as well as to Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the US. They spent three days in San Francisco in 1939.

The Comedy Harmonists made a number of recordings, including some with Josephine Baker. Several of these, including treasurable English-language renditions of "The Dwarf's Yodel Song" and "The Donkey Serenade," appear on the well-recorded Naxos disc.

Both groups disbanded in 1941, with members maintaining little or no contact with each other. Second tenor Erich Collin settled in Hawthorne, California. After working in a plastics factory, he formed The American Comedy Harmonists in the '50s. Although the ensemble included Harry Frommmermann, its duration was short. Baritone Josef Roman Cycowski, after losing much of his family in concentration camps, became Cantor in San Francisco's Beth Israel Temple. Frommmermann, who worked as a translator for the Allies in Nuremberg, became a New York cab driver, but eventually returned to Germany, where he continued experimenting with singing harmony in his home studio.

As my boyfriend said after listening to the Naxos disc, "If Chanticleer can pull this off, the audience will go crazy." By all means, if you have any wits about you, attend one of Chanticleer's concerts and find out. ▼

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The Comedian Harmonists in 1929 Berlin, before the Nazi crackdown.

THEATRE

Mormon without tears

Steven Fales' tale opens at New Conservatory

by Richard Dodds

Mormons don't hate homosexuals. They can't, because they don't believe in them. Words like "gay" and "lesbian" are only to be used as adjectives, never nouns, and anyone with same-sex attractions can choose from reparative therapy, a life of denial, a clandestine double-life, or ex-communication. Steven Fales explored the first three options before the church imposed the final solution, ex-communication, in 2000.

Fales, 32, is publicly detailing that journey in *Confessions of a Mormon Boy*, his one-man play opening Aug. 10 at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. It's a journey with several more curves than your usual coming-out story, including marriage, children, and a *déjà vu* gay connection to his wife's parents.

"I do my show with a lot of warmth," Fales said. "I don't come out attacking or bitter. I have fond memories of my years growing up in the church."

But those memories are tempered by the hypocrisy and cover-ups he encountered while trying to shed his homosexual feelings, and by the unnerving experience of being tried by the church for homosexual activity, and the ex-communication that followed.

"Even if they don't change their policy about homosexuality," Fales said, "ex-communication is a barbaric, medieval process that needs to stop."

Now a New Yorker, Fales took the nerve step of returning to Salt Lake City to premiere *Confessions of a Mormon Boy* last year. "No one picketed me," he said. "You simply don't exist as far as the church is concerned."

But all performances sold out, even without help from an apologetic theater critic at one of the dailies, who was forbidden to write about him.

Someone who was present at the very first performance was Fales' ex-wife Emily. "She stayed after the show," he said, "and gave



Fales: definitely ex-communicated.

me a big hug."

For Emily, the realization that her husband's homosexuality was in fact a noun rather than an adjective was doubly disappointing, because her father had gone through a similar journey that was chronicled for all to see in her mother's widely-read autobiography. Now, here was her husband going public about being gay.

Before she became Fales' mother-in-law, celebrated Mormon poet and author Carol Lynn Pearson wrote *Goodbye, I Love You*, which recounted how she married a gay man, divorced after having four children, and later allowed him to come home when he was dying of AIDS. In fact, Fales is staying at his former mother-in-law's Walnut Creek home during his San Francisco run in *Mormon Boy*.

Before Steven and Emily decided to get married, he confided his battle with homosexual feelings. "But we thought we could write a different story from her parents," he said. "When I came out of the closet, that was tough, but we knew there was a certain amount of risk going in."

Fales soon headed to New York, where he went through "a ferocious gay adolescence. I started to live life, put things on hold, and I woke up after about six

months and said, 'You know, I've got to make some changes, or I'm going to end up dead.' And I poured myself into writing my story."

After his short run in Salt Lake City, Fales rented an off-Broadway theater in hopes that a producer would pick it up for a commercial run. That has happened, and Fales is scheduled to open *Mormon Boy* in New York in November. Jack Hofsis, who directed the original *Elephant Man* on Broadway, will stage the production.

"This show will put me on the map more than being in the chorus of *Les Miz* for the next 10 years," Fales said. "And it's making a difference in people's lives."

Fales is already thinking big. "I would like to have my own sitcom in three years, where it's essentially the gay ex-husband moving back to Salt Lake right next door to his ex-wife. It's like *Will & Grace* with children, but really making an effort to play against the stereotypes."

Ticket info is available at 861-8972.

Toeing the line

Lesbian theater artist Terry Baum mines her own family's life for *Waiting for the Podiatrist*, a funny-sad look at middle-aged baby boomers who are now taking care of their elderly parents. First seen as part of Footloose's Women on the Way Festival in 2000, an expanded *Podiatrist* opens Aug. 20 at Venue 9.

Baum began developing the one-woman play while her father hovered between life and death in a hospital ICU. As Baum and her caustic mother debate whether or not to pull the plug, they must deal with the nightmare absurdities of modern medicine, as well as ironically mundane issues — including finding someone to clip the poor man's overgrown toenails.

Baum's previous work includes *One Fool*, which moved the San Francisco Chronicle to call her "a lesbian Woody Allen." She is also a founder of Lilith, a San Francisco women's theater collective. The new show is directed by Paoli Lacy, with musical direction by Scrumbley Koldewyn.

The Aug. 21 performance benefits the Pat Bond Memorial Old

Dyke Award. For tickets to this or any performance, call 289-2000.

'Yankee' fans

Davis Gaines, who starred in *Phantom of the Opera* both on Broadway and in San Francisco, will soon play the time-traveling hero of *A Connecticut Yankee* for 42nd Street Moon.

42nd Street Moon, which revives seldom-seen musicals, is moving out of its Eureka Theatre home for this production. Opening a five-day run on Aug. 21 at the much larger Herbst Theater, Rodgers and Hart's 1927 musical

will feature a 26-piece orchestra and a production more elaborate than Moon's usual staged concerts.

Greg MacKellan is directing the tale of a society playboy who is transported to King Arthur's Court. In addition to Gaines, the cast includes Moon regulars Bill Fahner, Stephanie Rhoads, and Lesley Hamilton.

For more ticket information, call 392-4400. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

Backstage



Tony Roberts, Valerie Harper and Michelle Lee in *Tale of Allergist's Wife*.

Valerie Harper

◀ Arts cover

Life begins to look good again when a vivacious friend from her past turns up, but this mysterious woman has unnerving plans for Marjorie and her husband.

Busch is best known as the author and cross-dressing star of *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, *Psycho Beach Party*, and other campy delights, but *Allergist's Wife* marks his first experience with mainstream success. He wrote the role of Marjorie for Linda Lavin, who won raves when the play opened on Broadway in 2000, and Harper took over a year ago before recently hitting the road with original co-stars Tony Roberts and Michelle Lee.

To prepare for the role, Harper did something she doesn't like to do. She watched Lavin's performance over and over.

"I wanted to see the blocking," she explained. "I never got to work with the actors until I went

on. But knowing that people spent upwards of \$80 for tickets, I thought, I better know this. I got through it. I didn't fall down. I got my laughs. I know how to get laughs."

Getting the character, however,

took more time. "Each night it improved," Harper said. "Some nights were better than others, and then I would take a quantum leap. What was tough was the amount of extravagant emotion that I

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— Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

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In a New York state of mind

Catching up with director Michael Lucas on film

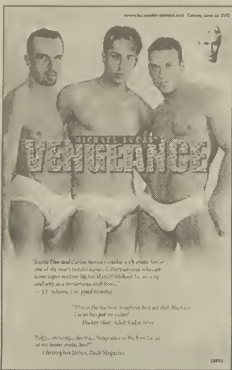
by John F. Karr

I'd like to do some serious catch-up on a couple of films by Michael Lucas. Since they're over a year old, you might ask, why? Because I like them.

I really like the presence of Michael's movies. The clear sound is never clouded over with music, the lighting is bright yet warm, and Michael Cliff's videography sure is sharp (some expensive equipment here, no doubt). And there's always the immediate presence of New York City, from the rooftop panorama that backdrops the credits to the bright lofts and tight apartments that are Michael's sets. Best of all, his casts have that heady New York mix—Italian, Hispanic, Puerto Rican and Russian youths. Wiry or built, tattooed, braided or plain, all heavily hung, they spar at each other with a New York intensity.

Like the city that never sleeps, Michael's a hungry guy, a commanding top who appears in his own movies to demonstrate the deep lovemaking he also elicits from his stable of stars. Michael has a New York kind of sex—a little rough, unrelentingly thorough,

he's a downtown express with no stops 'til the end of the line. If you can make it with Michael, you can make it anywhere.



Making it is the only thing that goes on in Michael's movies, because the plots are little more than the germ of an idea. A giddy example of this is my favorite of the bunch, *Vengeance*. And that's not merely because it puts Carlos Morales through his appreciable paces in two payoff scenes. The plot hook is a real hoot. Michael

plays a Mafioso-style Don whom local residents turn to for help, and whose strong-arm tactics are always sexual. When Michael dispatches a humpy thug to scare an embezzler (Michel Mattel, a dependably up-endable treat) into repaying the money, the bruiser throws Mattel down on the sofa, growls, "Give me a kiss," and ravishes him. This sort of treatment makes me surprised the whole neighborhood hasn't turned to grifting.

Well, the insatiable Mr. Morales has been cheating on Antonio, who entreats Michael for retribution. Michael's price is high: a favor for a favor. So, while emissaries are dispatched to catch Carlos in the very act, Michael extracts his pound of flesh from Antonio. Actually, he inserts his

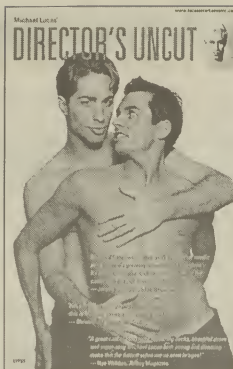
pound of flesh. Repeatedly.

Carlos is cheating with the nearly manic Richie Fine, who humps him like a hot-wired Ever-ready bunny. It's a curiously bumpy scene, though certainly scenic (turns out the stars were having a bitch fight, which Lucas, perhaps in exasperated revenge, has included as bonus footage after the movie). When Carlos is dragged in for punishment, Chad Hunt and muscle-bound baldie Erik Martins are ordered to teach him a lesson. Now, I'm sure these guys are highly credentialed, but it's Carlos who gives them a lesson, gobbling cocks and making dildos and fists disappear (only in the mail-order Director's Edit). If this is punishment, here's a message to Michael:



Karnal Knowledge

ment, Chad Hunt and muscle-bound baldie Erik Martins are ordered to teach him a lesson. Now, I'm sure these guys are highly credentialed, but it's Carlos who gives them a lesson, gobbling cocks and making dildos and fists disappear (only in the mail-order Director's Edit). If this is punishment, here's a message to Michael:



Oh, sir, I've been a bad boy.

Bolt from the blue

In *Lifestyles*, we meet Chris Bolt, a 6'2" 25-year-old who gives a star-born performance. He's deciding whether to take up Lance Gear's offer of monogamy. Bolt's buddies offer conflicting counsel. One thought his three-way with a punky pair of brothers was rewarding. After struggling with a hustler, Chad Hunt declares, "It was great not to worry about what

next page ►

Valerie Harper

◀ previous page

thought was overacting and horrible, but it was Marjorie, because she's so self-dramatizing. I'm not doing the things that Linda did. She is a wonderful actress and a stickmeister of the first degree, but I do something else."

House style

It seemed to some that Busch was entering Neil Simon territory with *Allergist's Wife*, but Harper sees differences. "In a Simon play," she said, "you know exactly where the laughs are. With this, we get laughs out of nowhere. It depends on who's out in the house. The literary references may get just a single laugh from some guy who's probably a professor."

Immediately after the Sept. 11 attacks, Busch went through his script changing jokes that mentioned words like "bombs" and "terrorists." On the cast's first night back, there were only 200 people in the audience. "Michelle Lee said to me, 'Val, I don't feel like being funny tonight.' I said, 'I know, baby, but they're here and we have to do it.' It was weird, but it was wonderful and nourishing."

During her New York run in *Allergist's Wife*, Harper was often in the news because of a bitter and high-profile race against Melissa Gilbert for presidency of the Screen Actors Guild. Although she lost the election, she said her campaign was instrumental in bringing reforms to the union.

"I didn't covet the office of president," she said. "And it's a good thing I lost. My purpose was to get a better union functioning. So now I can go on tour with a clear conscience, because how can I turn down this money, this opportunity, and this fun to stay in an office on Wilshire Boulevard?"

It wasn't the first dustup that landed Harper in the news. After scoring her first big break as Mary Tyler Moore's upstairs neighbor, and starring in the *Rhoda* spin-off, Harper returned to television with a series bearing her own name. But after a single season, there was no Valerie on Valerie.

The scuttlebutt at the time was that Harper wanted more money and control, and the face-off ended with Harper being fired and replaced by Sandy Duncan. "I wanted to let it go, but my husband said no," Harper said. "I was fired wrongfully, and I won the case."

If the image of a difficult and

demanding Harper took time to shake, she said it was never accurate in the first place. "I'm not a dragon in the business. I have a pretty marshmallow reputation, frankly."

On social and political issues, it's another matter. "I am definitely an activist," Harper said. "I have picketed since I was a young girl. I've been in the Hunger Project since it started. I was one of the first celebrities to do an interview for *Advocate*. I talked to Vito Russo in 1971," a year after *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* went on the air.

"I never got the freakin' issue," Harper said about gay rights. "How dare someone say, 'Curtil who you are for my comfort.' Of course, men have been saying it to women for years, but I see it as supreme hubris, unbelievable arrogance, and an outrageous request to make of another human being. That's what I didn't like about 'don't tell, don't say,' or whatever that crap was. Don't get me started on that one." ▼

The Tale of the Allergist's Wife will run Aug. 13-Sept. 8 at the Curran Theatre. Tickets are \$30-\$68. Call 512-7770.

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A lot more going on than Alice

'Dreaming in Pictures: The Photography of Lewis Carroll' at SFMOMA

by Sura Wood

Fans of the beloved children's classic *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* may not realize that its author, Reverend Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, a.k.a. Lewis Carroll, was considered one of the finest photographers of children in the Victorian era. *Dreaming in Pictures: The Photography of Lewis Carroll* at SFMOMA is the first show to look at Carroll's photography from an art-historical perspective, rather than as merely a curious adjunct to his literary fame.

The 76 images on display, primarily original prints, were preserved in some 34 albums (he rarely exhibited his work in galleries) and are in remarkably good condition. Of the 3,000 negatives Carroll made over a 24-year photographic career, about 1,500 survived. Although he shot the pictures himself, Carroll often left the actual print-making to others.

An Oxford University don who taught Mathematics and Logic, Carroll was already an accomplished photographer in 1865 when the publication of *Alice in Wonderland* made him a celebrity and a wealthy man with a taste for rubbing shoulders with the upper crust.

Included in the show are several photos of the young Alice Liddell, the daughter of Carroll's superior at Oxford. Though credited with inspiring the stories that would engender the most lucrative children's book of the time, Liddell bears little resemblance to the iconic Alice—she of the long,

blond tresses and propensity for falling down rabbit-holes—made famous in the book illustrations by John Tenniel. Liddell appears sullen in these photographs, and Carroll's diary entries reveal that he found her peevish and unpleasant.

In dreams

Many of the pictures reflect Carroll's abiding interest in alternate realities, especially sleeping and dreaming, as well as his love of theater and the Victorian penchant for acting out literary and historical stories, such as "St. George and the Dragon," in staged tableaux.

Strikingly, most of the images are of young girls in languid poses or dressed up in costume. Whether draped across a divan ("Xie Kitchin, ca. 1875") or reclining on rumpled bed-sheets ("Julia Arnold, Seated on an Unmade Bed, ca. 1872"), they gaze directly and knowingly into the camera with the eyes of old souls. Intended or not, the effect can be construed as provocative.

Although the Victorians believed in the romantic ideal of childhood, a state of grace and innocence informed by unbridled imagination and untainted by sexuality, for denizens of the 21st century, it's difficult to conceive of a world before the pervasive influence of Freud or, for that matter, the candidness of modern photography. "It was OK to pose children sensually because they were thought to be emphatically not sexual. They were in a separate category," says SFMOMA Curator of Photography Douglas R.



Lewis Carroll, "Xie Kitchin, ca. 1875," offering a glimpse of Victorian visual culture and Carroll's imagination.

Nickel. "There is no evidence that Dodgson acted in any untoward way with the children; but, ultimately, we will never know what was in his mind."

Each generation brings its own experience and prejudices; in looking at these images, some viewers may feel compelled to speculate about Carroll's sexual feelings, overt or covert, and the nature of his relationship with his young subjects. *Alice in Wonderland Psycho-Analysed*, a satire published in the 1930s that applied Freudian concepts to the Alice stories, may have inadvertently fueled this debate. A.M.E. Goldschmidt, an undergraduate at Oxford, wrote it as a farce, but there were those who took it seriously.

"The challenge I throw out is this," says Nickel. "If it could be proven incontrovertibly that all the pictures taken by Dodgson had actually been made by Julia Margaret Cameron, would it change the way we perceive them?"

The exhibit succeeds in offering a glimpse of Victorian visual culture and Carroll's pictorial imagination—computer touchscreen technology enables viewers to leaf through three "virtual albums" containing an additional 200 images—but Alice, as backstory, still looms large. Peering through the looking-glass, she skews and to some extent obscures a critical assessment of Carroll's photography. An unintended consequence of seeing the show is the desire to run to the nearest library and re-acquaint oneself with those marvelous adventures in Wonderland. And what do you suppose the Mad Hatter would have to say about that? ▼

Dreaming in Pictures:
Photography of Lewis Carroll
@ SFMOMA through Nov. 10.
151 Third St., SF. Info: (415) 357-4000, or www.sfmoma.org



Lewis Carroll, "Brook and Hugh Kitchin, 9 July 1876"

Porn capsules

◀ previous page

the other guy was thinking," Bolt experiences the lure of freedom first with Lucas himself, and then at a 9-man orgy.

The Lucas episode begins languorously and explodes, with Bolt getting his cock jerked to climax as he corkscrews down onto Lucas' bulbous-headed boner. Although it looked to me like Bolt had fun at the orgy, immediately afterward he snuggles into bed

with Gear and says, "I want to spend the rest of my life with you." Now, I don't believe him for a second, but if you were in bed with Mr. Gear, what would you say? The boys flip-flop entertainingly throughout this finale, which climaxes with our new monogamist cementing his relationship by taking a Gear-gusher full in the face.

The wisp of plot in *Director's Uncut* has droll humor, with Michael depicting himself as a cheap jerk. He asserts casting-couch privilege to lavishly fuck an

attractive blond he has no intention of casting, cons uncontracted work from performers, and then swindles them out of their paychecks, before getting his comeuppance at the hands of cast regular Michel Mattel (think a Canadian George Stephanopoulos).

While Michael Lucas isn't a sophisticated filmmaker, his movies never overreach themselves. They're really user-friendly. ▼

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Lady of sorrows

by Deborah Peifer

After the very disappointing *Wicked Games* a few years back, I took a break from Ellen Hart and her Jane Lawless mystery series, hoping that over time the clever plotting and credible characterizations that suffused the earlier mysteries might return. Apparently the answer to my hopes is not quite yet. *Immaculate Midnight* (St. Martin's, \$24.95) features an inert



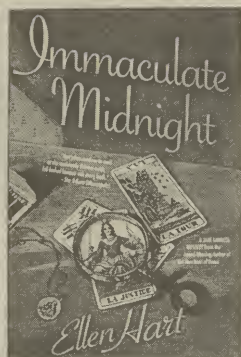
Book Report

detective, an impossible plot, and little in the way of interest. Jane Lawless is recovering from an assault, which event occurred in a previous novel. She is also having relationship problems, and her dog is dead. These sorrows mean that Jane is singu-

larly disinterested in life. Unfortunately, this means that the reader is equally disinterested in her. Jane's father, Ray, who figures prominently in the novel, is threatened with serious lapses in his marriage vows, and seems to have been guilty of malpractice in

his most recent case, the trial of a serial arsonist and murderer called the Midnight Man.

When the convicted client is murdered in jail, his father overtly threatens Ray with destruction, yet the family, even sleuthful Jane, takes a remarkably long time to connect a series of personal disasters that befall them with the bereaved father's threats. Frankly, solving all of the mysteries is considerably easier than beating a slow two-year-old at chess. Without vibrant



characters to season the pointless plot, it becomes more and more difficult to muster any interest in this limp effort.

Finally, I have a question for St. Martin's. Would it not be a useful thing to have the person who writes the jacket copy read the book first? If she or he did so, then the jacket would not refer to the villain of the piece as "the Fireman," when in the novel he is called "the Midnight Man," and the death of the wrongly accused would not be called suicide on the jacket, and murder in the novel. Of course, if the choice is between spending more time fixing the problems of the novel and less time correcting jacket copy, I would opt for the former.

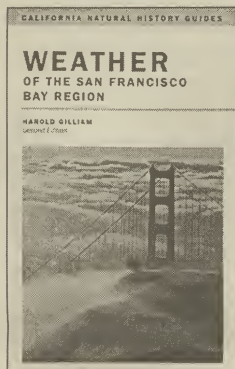
For movie buffs

The University of California Press now distributes all books published by the British Film Institute, including BFI Film Classics, a series of beautifully illustrated and well-written books honoring the great films of world cinema. I decided to take a look at one, to see if I could recommend the series, and in order to make it a tough examination, I chose a film that (shame-faced confession here) I've never liked, *Vertigo*. I know, I know, one of the greatest films ever, masterpiece, blah, blah, blah. I just never liked it. Now, the true test of book



about film, it seems to me, is that the book, in addition to illuminating the work, should make the reader want to see the film.

Charles Barr's *Vertigo* (BFI, \$12.95) not only made me want to see the film, it made me want to own the film so I could watch it often. Barr's explication is detailed and eminently readable, filled with fun facts to know and tell. I especially liked his eschewal of film jargon, and his ability to explain how Hitchcock does what he does in ways that a film novice could understand and enjoy.



Weather channel

Those who fail to understand San Francisco weather are condemned to wear shorts in August and freeze important and beloved body parts. Harold Gilliam comes to the rescue with *Weather of the San Francisco Bay Region* (Univer-

sity of California, \$12.95), a fascinating explanation of the ways in which climate and geography combine to make Bay Area weather so darned special. His exploration of the different types of fog is particularly interesting, as is the first clear explanation I've ever read of why the Coriolis effect works the way it does. This is the book to send to out-of-town friends before they come to visit, and you'll want to keep a copy on hand yourself, just for the gorgeous illustrations and the festive facts and figures.

Gay events

Lots doing at A Different Light this month. M. Christian reads erotica from *Speaking Parts* on Aug. 8, 7:30 p.m. The Saturday-morning Proust group meets on Aug. 10, 10:30 a.m., to discuss *In Search of Lost Time*. I think the guys may just finish *À la recherche du temps perdu*. On Aug. 13 at 7:30 p.m., the cast of Jeffrey Hartgraves' *Carved In Stone* performs a scene from the play, which features such gay favorites as Truman Capote, Oscar Wilde, Quentin Crisp and Tennessee Williams. The Women's Book Group discusses Booker Prize-winning novel *Hotel Du Lac* by Anita Brookner on Aug. 20 at 7 p.m. Here's your chance to meet readers, readers.

If all this reading and discussing has you thinking about the books themselves, rather than what's in them, trek to the Hormel Center at the Main Library for *Domestic Intelligence*, book arts by Lisa Kokin, a mixed-media installation of art and sculpture made from found materials, including books. Kokin says: "I grew up in a house filled with books, which were treated with utmost reverence. Cutting them up will probably land me in Hell eventually, but at least I'm having fun." The exhibit is on view through September 15. ▼

Contact Book Report at DeborahPeifer@msn.com.

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Anshaw's antics 'Lucky in the Corner'

by Alex Robertson Textor

Author Carol Anshaw moves into the melancholy, complex world of family life in her latest novel, *Lucky in the Corner* (Houghton Mifflin, \$23). *Lucky* is Anshaw's third novel. A writing teacher at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, she previously published *Aquamarine* (1992) and *Seven Moves* (1996). Anshaw has a longish career as a journalist and reviewer behind her, and also publishes short stories.

Anshaw's first novel, the richly cinematic *Aquamarine*, juxtaposes three different narratives of one character's life. Each narrative follows its character as she grapples with the limitations and allowances of different life choices. The novel is remarkable for its rendering of lesbianism and heterosexuality alike as choices, contingent on varying currents of desire and circumstance. Anshaw's second novel, *Seven Moves*, is a mystery novel turned inside-out.



It tracks the emotional state of a woman whose lover has disappeared.

Both *Aquamarine* and *Seven Moves* employ innovative plot devices and structural novelties as their central conceits. They are interesting novels for these conceits alone, though the appeal of Anshaw's writing transcends mere novelty.

Lucky in the Corner is more conventional than Anshaw's previous novels, but also perhaps more mature. Set in a contemporary Chicago, it's essentially a story of a mother and daughter, the former in her early 40s, the latter in her early 20s. Their relationship is mired in mistrust and misunderstanding. Daughter Fern is sullen with her mother Nora, continually resistant to her. Nora yearns for closeness with Fern, but does not know how to establish it.

What Anshaw does so well is generate characters whose heroic and deficient qualities are quilted together in a way that does not abandon contradiction. These characters, lesbian mother Nora chief among them, are selfish and giving in the same instant. Their personae are constrained by the ways they are recognized and interpreted by those closest to them. *Lucky* does an unusual job of extracting the twisted ambiguities at the core of most people's characters, and for this it is a supremely realistic and accomplished novel.

page 35 ►

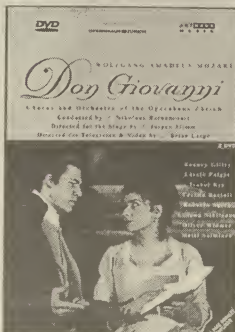
DISCS

Opera for couch potatoes

'Don Giovanni,' 'Dialogues des Carmélites,' 'Rigoletto' out on DVD

by Philip Campbell

Three new DVD opera releases underscore the value of the format in archiving important productions. The medium may never surpass the thrill of actual attendance, but at less than half the price of an orchestra seat, you still get a digital recording and a view from the best seat in your house.



Don Giovanni

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Gilfry; Bartoli; Rey; Polgar
Chorus and Orchestra of the
Opernhaus Zurich
Nikolaus Harnoncourt
(ArtHaus Musik)

ArtHaus Musik continues to release operas with starry casts and first-rate conductors. The new *Don Giovanni* from Zurich would seem to be their best so far, at least at first glance. Unfortunately, there are some disappointments in the cast. Not enough to sink the production, but impossible to ignore.

Rodney Gilfry is the sexiest Don since Samuel Ramey, and he is a better actor. The sensuality of his voice and physique make his numerous conquests seem plausible. Not since his steamy Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire* has the baritone had so much chance to show his range.

Bass Laszlo Polgar also gives a finely shaded performance as his disgruntled servant. Darker and less comedic than many Leporellos, he appears disgusted with the victims and his devilish master.

The other men are also exceptional, with Oliver Widmer's light-toned but angry Masetto a stand-out. Roberto Sacca makes more than the usually shadowy impression as Don Ottavio. In addition, the great Matti Salminen is luxury casting in the role of the Commendatore.

It is the women, surprisingly, who unbalance the production. Cecilia Bartoli ordinarily sounds

fabulous under almost any circumstances. The natural purity of her voice and that rich, chocolate tone cannot fail to enchant. Still, she is a distracting actress, with monotonous mannerisms. Donna Elvira has a right to sing the blues, but Bartoli verges on the shrewish. There are moments when she is literally cross-eyed. One could look away, but the constant bosom-heaving remains audible.

Isabel Rey fares better as Donna Anna, but she is sometimes shrill and only marginally better in conveying grief and rage. Liliana Nikiteanu is a suitably girlish Zerlina, though a little too maturely ready to be seduced.

The settings and lighting are handsomely pared down for max-

imally, and the music is exalted.

On the eve of the French Revolution, a young woman leaves the shelter of her aristocratic home for the deprivations of a Carmelite convent. Neurotically obsessed with death and cowardice, she nevertheless pursues the contemplative life.

When the Prioress who accepts her dies and the revolutionaries close in, she flees in terror. Tormented by self-doubt and the incomprehension of her loving father and brother, Sister Blanche is shattered by the ruin of her new refuge.

The final scene leads the nuns to the guillotine, and Blanche returns to take her place with the others. She has transcended fear

If you like your opera grand and traditional, this 'Rigoletto,' as a document of a summer night in the Arena di Verona, will prove very much to taste.

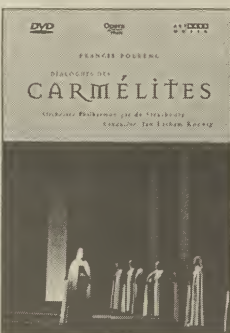
and goes to martyrdom with an acceptance worthy of St. Joan.

Film actress Marthe Keller has directed this production with an almost Kabuki stylization. The sets, lighting and movement are stark, yet every gesture is haunting and effective.

There is also the music to hold one's attention. The recurrent ostinatos have the neo-classical sound of Stravinsky, but Poulenc's melodic lyricism is never far away. There is an indefinable Gallic quality to his music, but he never stoops to mere prettiness or obvious effects. The stunning finale is, nevertheless, a real coup de theatre.

The cast is superb, with Anne-Sophie Schmidt a radiant Blanche. Patricia Petibon as the light-hearted Sister Constance brings tears as she goes to her own death, and Hedwig Fassbender and Nadine Denize are equally moving as the older nuns. After overcoming some vocal thinness, Laurence Dale is fine as Blanche's brother.

Jan Latham-Koenig's conducting makes the best case so far for an opera that has only grown in popularity since the premiere in 1957.



Dialogues des Carmélites

Francis Poulenc
Schmidt; Fassbender; Dale; Denize
Orchestre Philharmonique de
Strasbourg, Jan Latham-Koenig
(ArtHaus Musik)

Poulenc's only full-length opera may not be for the general public. Scored for a large orchestra and sizable cast, it is basically a chamberwork. The intimate scenes and their religious intensity could alienate listeners. Still, the agonies

Rigoletto

Giuseppe Verdi
Nucci; Mula; Machado; Luperi
Orchestra, Choir and corps de
ballet of Arena di Verona
Marcello Viotti
(TDK Mediactive)

If you like your opera grand and traditional, this document of

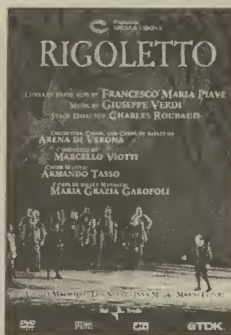
compelling; Harold's drag activities are neither supremely significant nor immaterial to his character.

Throughout the novel and against the tension between Nora and Fern, Anshaw introduces one instability just as another is being resolved. One bulwark of stability throughout is the presence of family dog Lucky, whose health is in decline during most of the present-tense narrative.

Though *Lucky* is a conventional novel, it gives its readers the opportunity to do a little work of their own. Readers learn about some significant plot developments only obliquely, either in

their aftermath or in discussion. This treatment of time gives a sense of partial access to these characters' lives, and to the fundamental events of the narrative. This partiality is accentuated by Anshaw's splicing of present-tense chapters with chapters set in the past, increasing a sense of temporal dissonance.

Anshaw's writing is increasingly rich and exciting. The strength of a novel like *Lucky in the Corner* resides in part in her readers' imagination, which cannot but help anticipate the directions toward which Anshaw's fictions will move in the future. ▼



a summer night in the Arena di Verona will prove very much to taste.

The singing ranges from terrific to more than acceptable, and the staging is lavish. There is an agreeable whiff of hammy old-school theatrics when the soloists

break character to take bows or respond agreeably to the crowd's demands for more.

Veteran Leo Nucci is in fine voice as the hunchbacked jester, and he gives a believable characterization, despite his obvious relish for acclaim. Soprano Inva Mula is an exciting discovery as his daughter Gilda. Her voice is as appealing as her lovely stage presence, with a wonderful edge to her coloratura. Her "Caro nome" deserves every "Brava diva!"

The Duke of Aquiles Machado is no vocal match for a Pavarotti, but he is asked to repeat "La donna è mobile" for good reason. Mario Luperi is remarkably subtle as Sparafucile.

The gigantic stage is filled with a ridiculous mob of supernumeraries (the opening looks like a Renaissance traffic jam), but the whole show is delightfully old-fashioned, and the musical values remain amazingly high. ▼

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Lucky in Corner

◀ previous page

Faux jock

The novel's characters are complicated misfits, uncomfortable with prevailing behavioral expectations. Daughter Fern's calculated life choices and fashion sense provide one example. Another can be found in Nora's middle-aged brother Harold, who moonlights as the crossdressed Dolores, and explores embodying a male faux-suave jock named Chad. Anshaw's handling of these variations is sympathetic and

OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon



Cosima Bowls by James Aarons

Crafty Feng Shui

The whole idea of Feng Shui intrigues me, since "living in harmony and balance with our environment" (as the dynamic art form is defined at www.shopfengshui.com) is exactly what our Western civilization could use for a positive change. It's not just elitist hogwash; it's practical Eastern philosophy ordinary Western folks can put to use to sweeten their habitats and moods. The devil is in harmonizing the details. Beginners are advised to start small, with a single ceramic object, say, or an array of objects. Your goal is to determine how each item can best be introduced into your environment in a way that serves not merely as decoration, but as spiritual inspiration. You can't be happy if the chi in your house is scattered all over the place by energy-sapping, soul-sucking tchotchkes. Home disorder can make you a psychic mess. You need to get the chi flowing smoothly through the rooms, which means objects have to be placed with due consideration to the vibes they give off. You may have to meditate a while before totally reorganizing your living space, which is a useful exercise in applied gay aesthetics — no good queen earns Martha Stewart points without learning to arrange things properly, time and again, till they "work," and Feng Shui doesn't "work" till it feels right — *spiritually and energetically*.

If all this isn't too New Age for you, then you're ready to experience James Aarons' pottery this weekend, August 9-11, at the American Craft Council's "Show San Francisco" at Fort Mason Center's Herbst & Festival Pavilions. Aarons, who joins some 300 other top American crafts artists for the always ambitious ACC-SF show, approaches his craft with a background in dance, having performed professionally for a decade after graduating with a BFA from North Carolina School for the Arts in 1984. That same year he began working with ceramics, and his dual career led him to that place of harmony and balance we all dream of, but only the most persistent and imaginative of us actually achieve.

You can partake of Aarons' harmonious creations at this fun-filled festival, the most extensive showing of crafts this summer, and a godsend for those seeking to balance the nooks and crannies of their homes with objects resonating with good chi.

Before heading to the show, be sure to survey your house and get a good feel for the chi flow. The house should breathe easily. If its chi is all bottled up, call a shaman for advice. ▼

Tickets for the ACC-SF Show are \$8 (\$14 two-day pass). The show runs 10 a.m.-6pm Fri. & Sat., and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun. Call 896-5060.



P.A. Cooley, Matt Weimer, Leon Acord and Jeffrey Hartgraves star as, respectively, Truman Capote, Oscar Wilde, Quentin Crisp, and Tennessee Williams in *Carved in Stone* at the Eureka Theatre. See Friday.

Fri

Herbst & Festival Pavilions

The 27th annual American Craft Council San Francisco Show, featuring works by more than 300 top craft artists in the fields of furniture, ceramics, jewelry and glass. \$8 (\$14 two-day pass); under-12 free. 10am-6pm. Fort Mason Center. Info: 896-5060.

Nexus Gallery, Berkeley

Just opened: "QUESTIONS: New Work by Positive Artists," a large-scale exhibition of nearly two hundred artworks including photography, printmaking, digital art, painting, drawing, mixed media works on paper, maskmaking, sculpture and jewelry. Presented by Positive Art, a community arts project, started in 1988 by Berkeley artist Sharon Siskin. Free, Mon., Tue. & Fri. afternoons, by appt. only. 2701 Eighth St., Berkeley. Call 510-549-0703.

Eureka Theatre

Theatre Shark and Larilee Productions present "Carved in Stone," a world-premiere comedy by Jeffrey Hartgraves, directed by John Fisher. Oscar Wilde, Truman Capote, Quentin Crisp and Tennessee Williams are happily occupying the "after-life

lounge" in heaven when a new, hot, young gay literary sensation arrives to puncture their engorged egos. Bette Davis, Judy Garland, Alice Toklas, Gertrude Stein and William Shakespeare pop in to say hello. Starring Bay Area luminaries P.A. Cooley (*The Crumple Zone*) as Capote; Leon Acord (*Foucault Who?*) as Crisp; Matt Weimer (*Lisbon Traviata*) as Wilde; Jeffrey Hartgraves (playwright) as Williams; and David Tenenbaum (*Dead Man Walking*). Also featuring Matthew Martin (*Sirena: Queen of the Tango*) as Davis, Garland and Stein, and Drew Todd (*Lavender Lockerroom*) as Toklas and Shakespeare. \$17 Wed. & Sun.; \$20 Thu., Fri. & Sat. 8pm (3pm Sun.). 215 Jackson St. (btwn Battery & Front). Tix: 778-4077. Info: www.LeonAcord.com

University of Creation Spirituality, Oakland

"Celebration of the Mother: An Evening with Author Andrew Harvey and Friends." Harvey is the author of more than 30 books on spirituality, and brings a strong gay perspective to his work. \$20 (tax deductible). 9pm. 2141 Broadway, Oakland. Info: 510-835-4827, ext. 29.

Kelly's Mission Rock

Sister SF presents "ELEMENTS," a major dance party hosted by Sister, Pacific Sound (aka Sunset), Green Gorilla Lounge, and Dainjah Management. Four crews in

four areas will represent the four elements: earth; wind; water; fire. Featuring stellar DJs, super lighting, fire dancers, installations and more. DJs confirmed include Heather Heart (Sonic Groove, NYC); Amber (Sister SF; DNA Lounge); Dragnfly (Teknique, Epiphany) on four turntables; Forest Green (Sister SF; Organized Chaos); Jeno (Green Gorilla; Wicked); and Ellen Ferrato (Release; 2nd Sunday; Green Gorilla), among many others. Styles range from house to breaks, techno, trance, and drum and bass. Sister SF was formed in 1997 in the belief that all aspects of throwing an event can be managed by women. They have male guest DJs on special occasions (including tonight), whose main task is to dress in drag and share the Sister spirit. \$15 presales; \$20 b4 midnight; \$25 after. 10pm-5am. 21+ w/D. 817 China Basin. Info: www.sistersf.com/elements.php

Sat

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening night: "Confessions of a Mormon Boy," the tale of a missionary, husband, father, homosexual... human, written and performed by Steven Fales. With warmth and humor, he tells his story of years in reparative heterosexual therapy, his divorce, his failed attempt to overcome same-sex attractions, and his excommunication from the Mormon Church (he had been a model Mormon). The play premiered late last year in Salt Lake City. Exclaims Fales: "I couldn't believe the buzz around my show. I had straights and non-Mormons come up to me and tell me that I wasn't just telling a gay story, but theirs as well." \$38 opening night; \$25-\$28 Thu.-Sun. thru Aug. 25. 8pm. 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

Atelier Studio/Gallery

Opening reception: the first U.S. showing of works by Danish artist Mie Olise Kjaergaard and Italian artist Antonio Torresi. Both artists will be in attendance. Champagne & chocolate served. Free (reservations required). 4-10pm. 2354 Market St., penthouse. RSVP/info: 861-

8216; www.atelier142.com

New College Theater

Help: human elemental laboratory of performance presents the premiere of Jim Saliba's *Jesus and the Myth of Care*, with visual design by Mary Armentrout, featuring Christy Funsch's solo dance work *Pilgrim* and Jennifer Swartz's solo *Sundial*. The show distills everyday life into idioms of gesture, sound and movement. A benefit for Huckleberry Youth Programs (HYP). Free admission (donations accepted for HYP). 2pm Sat. & Sun., Aug. 10 & 11; 7pm Wed. & Thu., Aug. 14 & 15. New College, 777 Valencia St. Tix/info: 387-4812; performancelab.org/helpproductions

Synergy School

"Naughty and Nice Queer Ballroom Partner Dancing," a monthly event for all ages. No partner or experience needed. \$10 (volunteers free). 6:30pm nice Foxtrot lesson; 7:30pm naughty Argentine Tango lesson. 9pm-midnight "Naughty and Nice Ballroom Partner Dancing Party." 1387 Valencia St. (at 25th St.). Info: 305-8242; www.queerballroom.com

Yerba Buena Gardens

Free kick-off concert: "AfroSolo Arts Festival 9," a star-studded opening act on four spectacular weeks of theatre, dance, music, spoken word, multi-media performance and visual arts — a celebration of African American artists giving voice to the Black experience. Presented by the AfroSolo Theatre Company in collaboration with the African American Art and Culture Complex, Cultural Odyssey, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Featuring Idris Ackamoor (composer, instrumentalist, tap dancer, actor, director, producer and co-founder with Rhodessa Jones of Cultural Odyssey); Lady Mem'fis (classic jazz ballads reflecting her Louisiana roots); Andre dos Santos Morgan (singer, activist, songwriter who tours regularly with Holly Near and works with Bread & Roses, UCSF AIDS Project and other charitable organizations); and Denise Perrier (song stylist with an international flair). Free (donations welcome). 1-4pm. 701 Mission St. Info: 771-AFR0 (2376).

Temple Beth El, Aptos

"Gender Blender" a summer dance party put on by STRANGE, a youth group for queer and queer friendly people. The night will feature three DJs, a band and a drag show. Open to people 23 and under. The event is handicap accessible. \$5-\$10 sliding. 7-10pm. To request a ride, or for more information, contact STRANGE at 425-3155. Temple Beth El is located at 3055 Porter Gulch Rd in Aptos, near Cabrillo College.

Lavender Seniors, San Leandro

"Lavender Seniors," a group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders over the age of 55 will hold their monthly potluck at noon. They are also seeking volunteers of all ages to work with socially isolated seniors. Rides from BART available. San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. Info: 510-667-9655.



Lady Mem'fis performs at the Outdoor Jazz Concert at Yerba Buena Gardens, kicking off the AfroSolo Arts Festival. See Saturday.



"Family," digitally altered photograph, by Steve Hodge, part of Positive Art's 14th annual exhibition, "QUESTIONS," at Berkeley's Nexus Gallery. See Friday.



foolsFURY gets avant-garde with British playwright Martin Crimp's *Attempts on Her Life*, premiering at 312 Connecticut Theater. See Saturday.

Meridian Gallery

Opening reception: "Children Behind the Wire: Art form Wartime, Camps, and Refugee Situations," an exhibition of artwork created by children and youth in areas of conflict including Chechnya, Afghanistan and Colombia. Co-presented by American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker humanitarian organization, and Meridian Gallery. Free. 3-6pm. 545 Sutter St. Info: 398-7229; www.meridiangallery.org

312 Connecticut Theater

foolsFURY launches its fifth season with the West Coast premiere of British playwright Martin Crimp's *Attempts on Her Life*, a landmark piece in avant-garde theater, originally commissioned by the Royal Court theatre in London where it premiered while Crimp was writer in residence. It presents a series of darkly comic vignettes in which the identity of a mysterious woman, Annie (or Anya, or Anne), is repeatedly imagined, discussed, dissected and sometimes dismissed. She appears by turns to be a victim and a perpetrator of terrorist violence, a new brand of car, a famous nuclear physicist, and more. The audience must sift, detective-like, for a lasting grip on Anne's true identity. Directed by Ben Yalom. \$15-\$20 (\$12 students/seniors). 8pm. Thru Sept. 1st. 312 Connecticut St. Tix/info: 8-866-GOT-FURY; www.foolsfury.org

Sun

Old First Church

Old First Concerts presents clarinetist Carey Bell playing a classical concert of Debussy, Brahms, Tower and Lutoslawski. \$12 (\$9 students/seniors). 5pm. 1751 Sacramento St. (at Van Ness). Info: 474-1608; www.oldfirstconcerts.org

The Endup

"Devotion," a weekly commitment to house music, with resident DJ Ruben Mancias and special guest DJ Timmy Regisford (Club Shelter, NYC). \$10. 8pm-4am. 21+w/ID. 401 6th St. (at Harrison). Info: 778-8845.

STOP AIDS Project @ SFMOMA

Join Positive Force's popular "Motion" series event, this time exploring what's up at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Take a gander at

works by Yoko Ono, Ellsworth Kelly, Willem de Kooning, and more, in the company of other HIV+ guys. Call for details and to RSVP: 865-0790, ext. 307.

Mon

LGBT Community Center

"QComedy Showcase." Monday Night Gay Comedy hosted by Janis Lipton. Also appearing: Doug Holsclaw, Marilyn Pittman, Regina Stoops, Zoe Dunning, Lisa Geduldig, Erin Souza, and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). Doors open 7:30pm; show at 8pm prompt. Tix: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org. Info: www.QComedy.com

Tue

Lush Lounge

"Very Veronica," soul cabaret with captivating singer and band leader Veronica Klaus and her trio, featuring Tammy Hall on piano. 9-11:30pm. 1100 Polk St. (at Post).

California Palace of the Legion of Honor

Free first Tuesday (sponsored by Ford), meaning you get to waive the \$8 adult gen'l. admission fee, but you still have to pay a \$6 "special exhibition" fee to see the dazzling new exhibit: "Eternal Egypt: Masterworks of Ancient Art from the British Museum," a showcase of 144 treasures ranging from monumental statues to sculpture, relief, papyrus, ostraca, jewelry, cosmetic objects, funerary equip-

ment, and portraits and possessions of famous pharaohs. 9:30am-8:45pm. Exhibit runs thru Nov. Lincoln Park (entrance at 34th Ave. & Clement St.). Info: 863-3330; www.legionofhonor.org

STOP AIDS Project

"Magnetic Love." Worried about infecting your partner with HIV? Scared of getting infected by the one you love? Considering a mixed-status relationship? Join with others with similar concerns for a frank discussion of "Magnetic Love" and how it can work safely for you both. Co-sponsored by Positive Force. Free. 7pm. 2128 15th St. (at Market St.). Info: www.stopaids.org

Wed

Ruby's Clay Studio

"Community Group Show," featuring ceramic art and functional pottery by 17 artists. Daily 9:30am-7pm, thru Aug. 27. 552A Noe St. (btwn 18th & 19th sts). Info: 437-1642.

Lush Lounge

Singing sensation Spencer Day plays progressive jazz and spreads good cheer. 9-11:30pm. 1100 Polk St. (at Post).

Thu

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Screening of Yakov Friedland's documentary *She-H'asani Isha* ("Created Me a Woman"), examining the

changing role of women in Modern Orthodox Israeli society, and discussion with educator Felicia Epstein. Free. 7:30pm. 290 Dolores St. Info: 861-6932; www.shaarzahav.org

Randall Theater

Young People's Teen Musical Theatre Company presents "Teens on Broadway," a musical revue based on Broadway shows featuring teenagers in the cast, including *Grease*, *The Fantasticks*, *Into the Woods*, *Bye Bye Birdy*, *West Side Story*, and many more. Directed by Diane Price. \$5-\$7 at door. 8pm Thu.-Sat., Aug. 15-17, and 2pm Sun., Aug. 18. Located above the Castro at 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt). Info: 554-9523.

Buriel Clay Memorial Theater

AfroSolo presents five emerging Bay Area theatre, spoken-word, and dance artists giving voice to the Black experience. Featuring Soyinka Rahim (Our Thing Performance Company) in "Aisha" ("Life") utilizing the healing, spirit-uniting energies of movement, music and spoken word; Uchechi Kalu, a Nigerian-born performance poet whose recent work *In the Shadows of My [S]kin* explores issues of family history, cultural and social taboo, and silence; Thomas Robert Simpson, performing "Strong Shoulders: An Ode to Langston Hughes," a selection of poetry by the great American author, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Hughes' birth; and performance poet James Cagney. \$12 (\$20 for Gala performance with receptions on Aug. 17). 8pm Thu.-Sat., Aug. 15-17; 3pm Sun., Aug. 18. African American Art and Culture Complex, 762 Fulton St. Tix/info: Cultural Odyssey Box Office, 292-1850.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
Out & About
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395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

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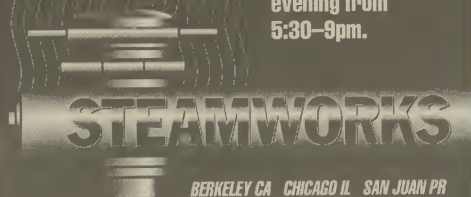


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Jennifer Gwirtz and jim saliba in "Jesus and the myth of care" at New College Theater. See Saturday.



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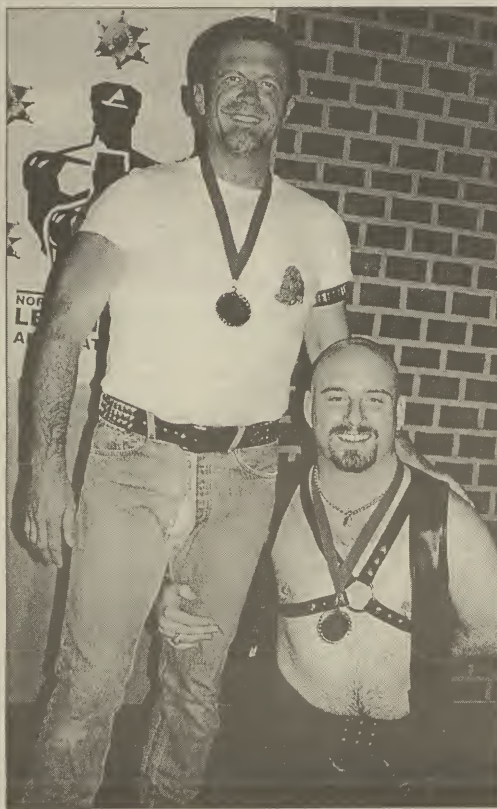
When the weekend of October 10-13 rolls around in St. Petersburg, Florida, all the former Drummer regions, plus one or two more, will complete the roster for the International Leather Sir and Leather Boy contests. After last year's Drummer debacle, which became known to the entire leather world, the former regional sponsors rallied behind Mike Zuhl, who promptly created the International Leather Sir and Leather Boy titles. This year, the Northeast and Southern California regions signed on, and everything is a "Go" for the 1st edition of the two titles.

Last weekend, August 2-4, regional contests were held in Guerneville, California for the Northern California Sir/Boy titles, and in Phoenix, Arizona for the Southwest Leather/Sir titles. At my deadline, no word had been heard from Phoenix as to who won, but the news will be forthcoming as soon as they get their act(s) together.

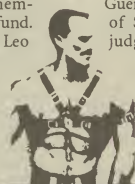
In Guerneville, Graylin Thornton proved that he has what it takes to be the master of ceremonies in his own right. He had the crowd in stitches in the Odd Fellows Hall (imagine that!) as many leather people turned out for Jake Schwartz's initial contest-producing foray. Of course, Jake couldn't have done it without two dozen volunteers and his trusty Dana Smith. It was a benefit for the Sonoma County AIDS Emergency Fund, and as usual the leather tribe was generous to the point that some \$800 was raised for that charity, and some \$1,400 was made at the auction of gift baskets from the contestants themselves for their own travel fund.

Mr. Leather of Mexico Leo Suarez and the first-ever Mr. Drummer Ray Perea were on hand, as well as several VIPs of leather nation.

Three candidates competed for the Sir title — T.Jay Cain and Rod Wood, both of Guerneville, and Eric Partridge of Sacramento, and there were two candidates for the boy title — Nathan Kalana of



Northern California Leather Sir Eric Partridge poses with Leather Boy David Shorey after triumphing in Guerneville last Saturday, August 3. They both advance to compete in the Leather Sir/Boy finals in St. Petersburg, Florida in October.



Leather

Guerneville and David Shorey of Sacramento. They faced judges IM Drummer Gary Vandeventer, Mike Marro, Abe Feuerstein, Jason Campbell, Jack Garcia and outgoing incumbent, Robert Espandola. The hopefuls went through all the usual interviews, speeches, fantasies, physique and on-stage questioning by the emcee.

Interspersed, a riotous comedy stint by the iconoclastic Carla

Clay had the audience rolling in the aisles.

In his step-aside speech, Robert Espandola brought to the stage many of his supporters and inspirational friends who helped him during his year with the title. He gave them be-ribboned medals of appreciation, almost two dozen recipients. He (being a lyricist), composed a farewell and thankful piece, which he sang himself, to wild applause. It was one of the most heart-tugging step down speeches I've witnessed

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, August 8-11

In Dallas, Texas, it's the second annual Ms. World Leather contest with all the action at the Radisson Hotel on Mockingbird Lane. All the "holy cows" will be there to thank Annie Romano-Blas for a great year with the title and to welcome the new Ms. World 2002.

Hundreds trekking to Saratoga Springs for the 2nd Leather/Levi Weekend, with 72-hour bar service, bike and people events, gourmet meals, hot tub, swimming pool, camp sites and all the camaraderie you could ever want.

Saturday, August 10

Third in a series of lectures at LeatherMasters in San Jose featuring Evil Mommy Tina expounding on "Sensory Deprivation." These lectures are getting rave reviews. \$5 donation.

Private mansion in Beverly Hills for Will Clark's 6th annual Bad Boys Pool Party with 16 of this year's hottest porn actors from Colt, Falcon, Raging Stallion and go-go boys. \$65 advance, \$75/door. Check out www.badboyspoolparty.com.

Sunday, August 11

Leather Week ends in Portland, Oregon today when Mr. and Ms. Oregon State Leather will be chosen to compete at IML 2003.

Tuesday, August 13

Bondage Buddies tie each other up at 933 Harrison tonight with a \$10 entry fee and doors open between 2000 and 2300. For info, call 777-HEAD.

Wednesday, August 14

Golden Shower Buddies at 933 Harrison tonight for \$12 entry fee. Walk in, float out, and if you need more info, call 777-HEAD.

Saturday, August 17

Bears of SF beer/soda bank at the Lone Star to benefit HIV Network from 1500-1900 with only a \$7 donation and all the suds you can quaff.

Leather Ball 8 in Toronto, a huge disco party ostensibly attended by mostly leather people.

"Who Murdered Donna Sachet - Again?" plays at the Russian Center (Diviz @ Sutter); with a reception at 1800, and show at 1900. Show only \$25; reception & show, \$40.

Out with the Emperor!

by Sweet Lips

Our royals know how to party with flair, especially His Most Imperial Majesty Berlin, the dashing royal-about-town who will top everyone this Saturday, August 10 with his "Emperor's Night Out," a lavish pub crawl designed to encourage contributions to the royal family's Charity Fund, which of course does all kinds of worthy projects for those in need.

His Majesty and his glittering entourage will be dropping in at three drinking establishments, beginning with a photo op at the Edge (4149 18th St.), where shutters will be snapping from 7-8:30 p.m., and then it's on to Marlena's (488 Hayes St.) en masse for a rousing Karaoke session from 8:45-10:15 p.m. To cap the evening, everyone will make their way to Club Rendez-Vous (1312 Polk St.) for a "Reverse Drag

Show." The tickets for this glamorous affair are only \$10, though of course you can donate your life savings if you wish!

Yet another way of doing good: The Pine Street Volunteers will be holding a sidewalk sale benefiting the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund on Saturday and Sunday, August 24 & 25, at Pine St. and Leavenworth, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Donations of items

to sell can be made by calling David at 775-9145, and bring your coin collection for their big penny jar.

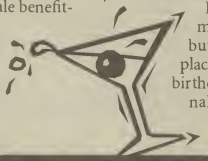
With so much going on in the city, it's hard to keep up with friends, but I'll try my best. For starters, our old pal Dick Deemer is halfway through the summer season at Fire Island Pines, and

you'd think working there would be heavenly, but he can't wait to get back to his two homes — San Francisco and Puerto Vallarta.

A special "hello" to Mark Manfield in that big city of Bisbee, Arizona! It's a mining town no more, but Mark is digging the place anyway. And happy birthdays are due to Hannah, Greta Grass and Kenny on the 15th. You're all looking fabulous!

Jim Mangus is well, and back at work at the

Cinch Saloon, so welcome back, Jim! Did you know the restaurant right next door to the Cinch serves fantastic Saturday and Sunday brunches? Thank you, Hal, for taking me there! For a real treat, drop in at the CR, where that handsome, hunky stud Brian is working nights. He'll get your juices flowing! ▼



Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

in a long, long time.

Also, the Guerneville chapter of the Sisters of P.I., were honored by Rodger Jensen and Jim Peterson with a "Heart of Leather" award/plaque for their hard work in that community.

The moment of truth arrived at almost midnight when all the scores were tallied. The final result: Eric Partridge of Sacramento is the Northern California Leather Sir, and Boy David Shorey, also of Sacramento, is the Leather Boy. Both will advance to compete at the International finals in St. Petersburg, Florida in October. It was a very worthy effort and crowd seemed pleased with the results.

Biggies of the week

The leather tribe rushes hither and yon this coming weekend. In Dallas, Annie Romano-Blas ends her year as the first ever Ms. World Leather on Sunday when six women from around the country will have gone through the rigors of "a different kind of contest for a different kind of woman." International Mr. Leather, Ms. Leather 2002, International Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy will be among the dignitaries in attendance in Dallas, where all the action is taking place at the very gay-friendly Radisson Hotel on Mockingbird Lane.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, it's the second annual Leather/Levi Weekend at beautiful Saratoga Springs north of the Bay Area. They expect another record crowd will be on hand for this "unity through community" weekend run where seasoned men and women of leather will mingle with those "interested" in the leather lifestyle and will make an initial foray into realms as yet unfamiliar to them. Lots of volunteers have been busy since last November when planning was in the initial stages for this 2nd attempt at unifying the Bay Area leather communities.

The results of these two gatherings should prove successful. With former IMLs. Jill Carter heading the Ms. World Leather committees, and Mario Torrigino, the dynamic catalyst for Leather/Levi weekend, the forecast for the success of these two endeavors can only be high caliber leather events. Stay tuned for coverage of these and other leather events.

Summer is here and fun and



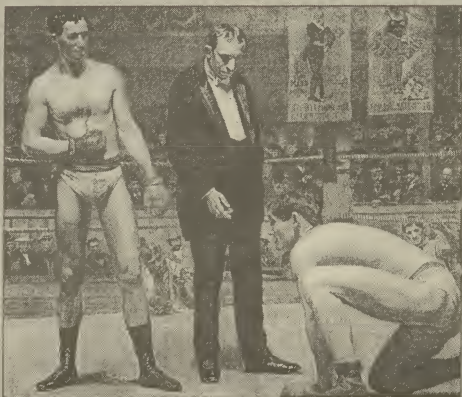
California Leather Family winners (L. to R.): Boy Jeff of San Francisco, CA. Leather Man Bill Mitchell of San Diego and CA Leather Woman Dean "Vibby" Bramlett of Los Angeles. All three will advance to compete in Washington, DC next April at American Brotherhood weekend competition.

fundraising events all over the world are coming your way, so stay happy and healthy so you can be part of it all. For info on leather events all over the country, be sure

to read the stellar writers who grace the pages on www.LeatherPage.com.

Have a great weekend, and see you next week! ▼

Coming attraction



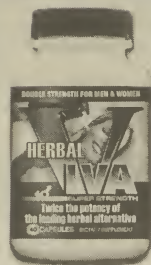
Next week in Arts & Entertainment: A new book shows how American realist painter Thomas Eakins (1844-1916) based his paintings of masculine athletic endeavor — boxing, wrestling, rowing — on sketches, studies, and photographs he took of nude male students. *Thomas Eakins - The Absolute Male*, from Universe Books, in review. (Shown here: "Taking the Count," 1898)

Concurrently, a major retrospective of the works of Thomas Eakins is on show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC through Sept. 15. Info: www.metmuseum.org. ▼

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BLOW BUDDIES

San Francisco

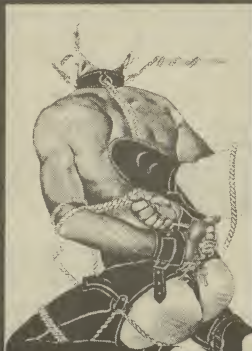
Bondage Buddies Tues.

Aug. 13th
Bondage tables, bondage chair, St. Andrew's cross, hanging cuffs and stocks and more...
door 8-11pm
play 'til 1 or 2am

Golden Shower Buddies Wed.

Aug. 14th
door 8-11pm
play 'til 1 or 2am

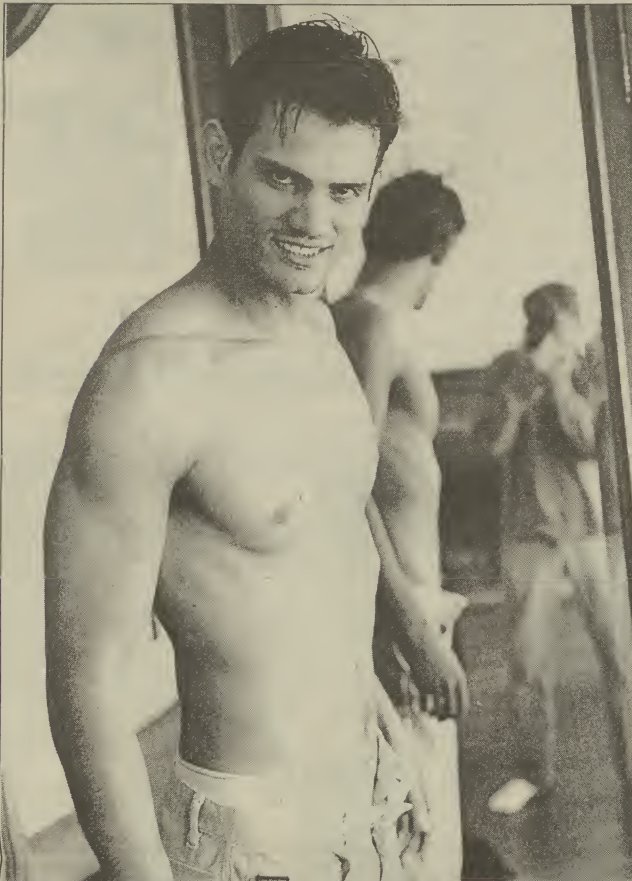
drawing (c) Ira Smith



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PARTING GLANCES

Tues. 9, July 02 4:43pm Castro Muni (inbound). You David, going down for meeting. Me: David tool in blue SFDD t-shirt, asked me did I work for them? More than grinded when I answered! Did sparks fly, or what? Please contact or stop in, you know where! ☎ 71942

Hey Thin Boy At "Lone Star" Pride Sunday, green tank, shell necklace, cool shades. We cruised heavily Memorial Day (Sunday) as well. Sorry I couldn't follow through. Let's hook up. Better late than never. ☎ 71923

Hanover A-NewYork A-At A Play Let's get together for a drink and see where it will lead us. Perhaps a pleasant adventure. ☎ 71924

"Looking For Steven!" You were at the Eagle with friends. We met again at "Powerhouse". You: sweet and sexy. Me: I fucked ...up. Can we try again? ☎ 71958

You Held My Hand At "Paramount" In Oakland, as we watched "His Girl Friday" on 7/12. Then, you disappeared, before you got my number. I'm extremely sad, now. If you see this, please answer! ☎ 71922

Ballet At Golds Gym, July 11 You're an Asian guy doing ballet moves + stretches in the stretching room. I'm a tall thin Caucasian guy. We made eye contact. I'd like to meet. ☎ 71925

Tight Levis Man Outside Harvest You-outside Harvest on Market, 40ish, tight Levis petting dog. Me-30, GWM, longish hair, mesmerized by you. Should have talked to you longer. Let's connect, handsome! ☎ 71956

Mike, Thank You For The Evening We met on July 5th in bookstore, went to galleries and Center. Too nervous to ask your number and tell you how I enjoyed your company. Please email or call. ☎ 71957

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

• Made For Each Other • Seeking masculine, muscular, HIV+ regular guy who sits down to pee and has a pussy between his buns. Object: matrimony, or whatever. Me: 5'10", 180, 44, Black, muscular, masculine, poz. ☎ 71926

—New To Town & Ready To Date— 35 year old Asian/Caucasian mixed educated HIV- affectionate clean shaven ISO handsome in-shape HIV-man that would like to casually date with prospect of "marriage." ☎ 71927

P/T Romantic F/T Realist... In game of life accepting applications for partner in crime morning coffee buddy. Spontaneous, adventurous, non-judgmental proffered. Shared experiences and poss. expenses. Inked nor cal Latin for h/wt White. 30's and poz please. ☎ 71928

Cool 38yrs Houseboy Latin Healthy HIV+ Latin: 5'8"160 like hugging/touching body contact masculine young looking versatile seeking GWM-slim-masculine young looking under 40 yrs. height and weight proportional no fats fems drugs+ size small to medium dick. Versatile. \$ 71943

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Seeking Sweet Guy In South-Bay Very young looking EurAsian, 45 yrs old, brown hrd eyes, seeks W/H/A cute guy who is so sweet for words! Love nature, walking, talking, sunset, rain, simple "real" things! No scene, bar etc... Not a sex add! ☎ 71945

ISO Intelligent Friend / LTR Successful professional, 60, in good shape and health. Interests: arts, science, travel, etc. Longtime partner died last year. Am now ready to make new friends. ISO caring person, possible LTR. ☎ 71946

Looking For A Ready Bitch?!! ... With smooth skin, your average dick, brown eyes, white hair whose open, fun-loving, happily established: I'm it. You: dark hair, eyes, skin, hefty dick, love being top gun. ☎ 71947

• Bi Curious • Good looking, athletic, professional, straight-acting, easygoing, SWM, 39/6/175, br/br, discreet, hairy, clean, HIV-Neg, seeks younger closeted buddy who wants to get together for fun and exploration. My place SF. ☎ 71959

30's Masc. Top, Seeks Young, Fun Cute prof. male therapist/teacher seeks younger masc male for str/hr. Know who you are & what you want. I do. ☎ 71948

P/T Romantic F/T Realist Part 2 Hey!... Wanted more?... Enjoy quiet dinners (yes) clubbing (occasionally) walks (long) spooning (a must!). Not kewl with baggage, self-centeredness, chain-smokers. 6, 170lbs. smooth, cut, no Espanol. Masculine easy going. Later. ☎ 71949

"Be My Daddy!!" Mario, slim olive-skinned Italian, 22, fresh in SF ISO older potential life-mate. Personality before looks. Show me your San Francisco, raw or glorious. No STD's. ☎ 71950

GWM Gorilla Hunk Wants Furry Twin Are Apollo, Hercules, and Eros your favorites? If so, you've found a friend. My narcissism seeks in-shape, poz GWM into endless touching, hugging, kissing, sucking, Tantric eroticism, bonding, cosmic merging. ☎ 71960

ISO Muscular-Athletic Asian Asian seeks young gym-toned, in shape Asian for fun and possible relations. If not Asian, need not apply. ☎ 71961

Versatile Regular Guy Youthful, clean-living, 43y.o. male seeks lusty, versatile, fit gbl WM for affection, virile foreplay and mutual mounting. I'm 6'3", 178, slim-muscular, std free and sensual. ☎ 71962

Rugged Guy Masculine, athletic, dominant but cool, smooth, Asian, 54, 5'8", 155 seeking clean-shaven, lean/muscular WM into workouts, running, sports, outdoors, hiking, films, ethnic foods, travel, and the arts. ☎ 71963

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Hung Italian Guys Wanted! I'm looking for Italian guys who are hung "8", "9", "10" for long oral sucking sessions; J.O. 69 watching video's etc.. If you're good-looking a plus, but looks not important. ☎ 71929

Uncut, Hung-9, Hairy, Masc. Musc, HIV+ GWM, 50, 5'9", 160, balding, goatie, versatile man. ISO masc/musc, fit man, great butt, nice cock, "nipple work", light S&M, kiss & cuddle. Live on East Coast, visiting S.F. Sept. Photo req'd. HIV+. ☎ 71930

??? Bad Ass Butt Boy ??? GW masc. dirty old man (top, not versatile) needs big W. masc. submissive butt boy q/40. ☎ 71931

Cute GWM Seeks Fun Adventure I'm 28, smooth, boyish, cute. Clean-cut, sideburns, light brown hair, hazel/green eyes. Other guys in their 30's with slim/muscular builds and with dark hair are my favorites. ☎ 71932

European Guys I like guys from Europe, particularly guys from France, Italy Spain and other countries. If you are good-looking, or hung, it is a plus. Let's get together. 71933

Horsehung Hispanics Wanted! I am looking to Hispanic guys who are hung "9" or more, to service and suck, jack-off 69 etc. for an hour or two or longer. I want to serve you. ☎ 71934

Hung Hispanic Guys Needed! I want Hispanic mates that are hung "8", "9" or "10" inches or larger to suck for an hour or more, watch hot video's, etc. Well have a real hot time. ☎ 71935

Attention: Hung Guys! I'm seeking guys who are hung "9" or more for fun, long or short oral sucking sessions. I have you to watch video's, j.o.; etc. and service guys like you. ☎ 71936

Senior Suck WM, 45, 6', 185 buzzcut, goatie seeking guys in their 50, 60's, 70's who need oral service. Love to suck and. Grey hair and beards a plus. ☎ 71937

Hungry Cock Sucker GWM 49 loves Big cock 8" or better uncut a plus! Lay back and get expertly done downtown location discreet. ☎ 71951

Pool + Voyeur = Fun Exhibitionist, Hot. Interracial couple will travel within two hours of Bay Area to frolic waterside for your viewing pleasure- Age unimportant. ☎ 71952

ISO Hairy Little Fuck Buddy Hairy muscled tattooed skinhead/leatherman, 5'8", 145, poz, wants short hairy muscled buddy for rough hard sweaty mutual latex free butt-fucks; must be hairy and into mutual rough play. ☎ 71953

GWM 46, 5'5", 135lbs Stache Bl/Bl 30-50 nd/ns for safe fun with my 7" cut dick and yours. ISO mellow fuck buds, who are clean & in shape. ☎ 71964

Stovepipe BM seeks GWM 60 years or older that needs some good hot stovepipe. ☎ 71965

Oral Expert!! Black male, muscular, hung. Seeking hung guys to service. 21-50. ☎ 71966

~Oral Marathons~ Cute, masculine bi top, 33, brown, blue, tattoo, worked-out-worked-in; seeking intense young hairless bottom for intense marathons. Do it! ☎ 71967

Bottom Bruiser? Husky build, conservative appearance, moustache? Mature, endowed Black toman will leave a deposit in your male box. Be sincere, available, easy to reach. All ages; races welcome. No voicemail. ☎ 71968

Big Dick For 69 Needed! Discrete guy, good-looking, seeks very hung 69 dude. Looking for guys hung 9, or 10" or more. Hung 8" o.k., watch good videos, party! etc. ☎ 71969

Hard Cock Needs Soft Hand Masculine mature WM needs occasional prolonged climax delaying cock massage. No oral, no reciprocation, just complete hand job. ☎ 71970

LESBIAN

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FFT Wants FFB GWM 60 HIV- 6'5" 260 nice big hands wants GWM 30+ HIV- bottom call and play-herb/aroma + talk at you soon. ☎ 71938

Video Rim Freak GBM into party on rimming hot butt/fisting, toys, your choice. Need place to play kinks, odors, orange, red, blue, yellow. ☎ 71939

Young Tight Dragqueens Fantasy Me bi-HM, 54, ISO young 18-27 only-drag queens; pluses: red-heads, cigar-smokers, 69, pretty-lips, tight-ass for three-some fun, no B.S., drug-free... ☎ 71940

Erotic Rope Bondage Hot, realistic, sweaty rope bondage. Gags, toys, and lots more. I'm 43, GWM, 5'8", 160, in-shape, good-looking. Seeking masculine in-shape guy 21-45. Safe, trustworthy, discreet, HIV-. SF or East Bay. ☎ 71954

"Wanted Dominant Female!" SWF 55 wanting a dominant female, who like a little kinky sex and maybe a new relationship. ☎ 71971

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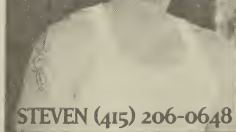
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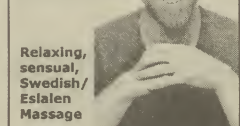
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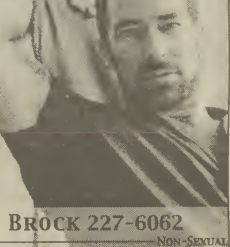


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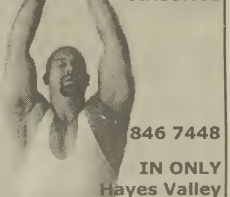
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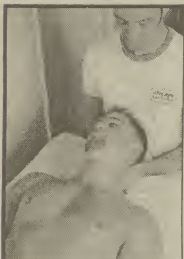
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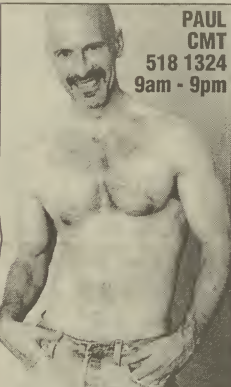
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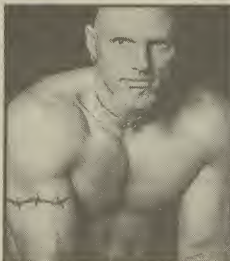
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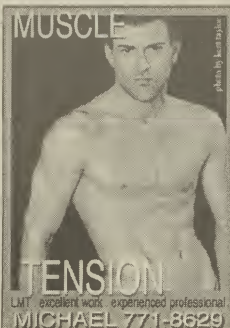
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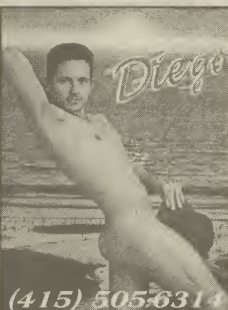
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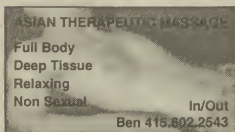
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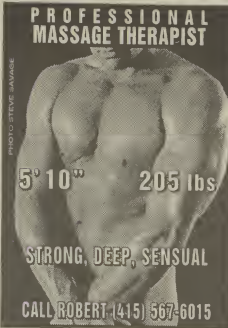
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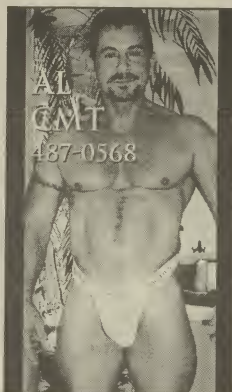
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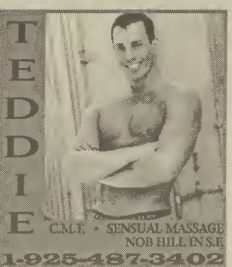
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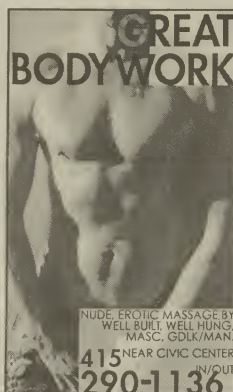
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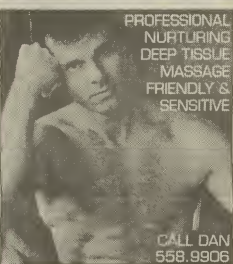


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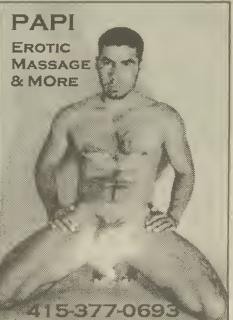
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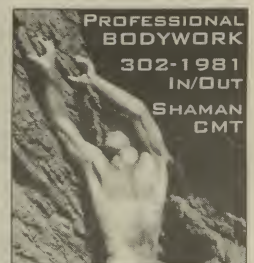
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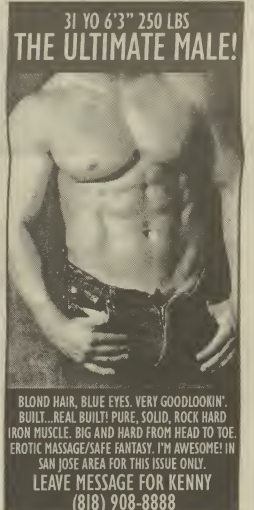
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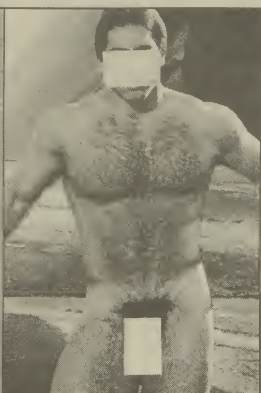
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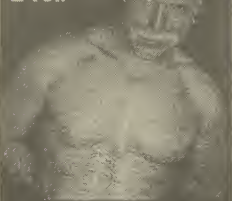
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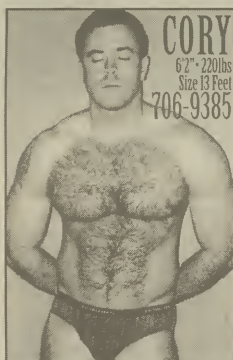
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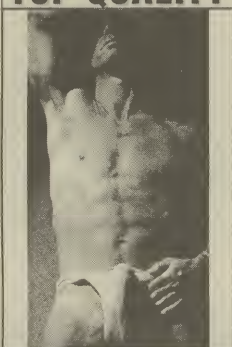
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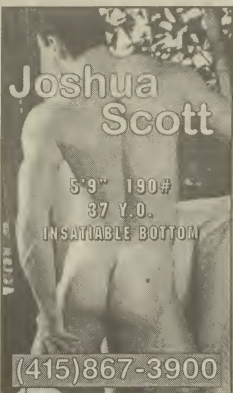
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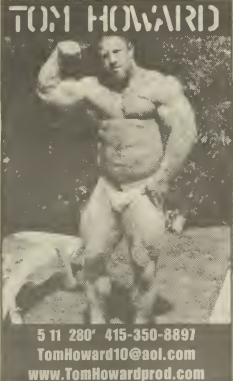
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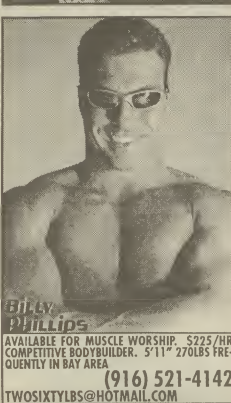
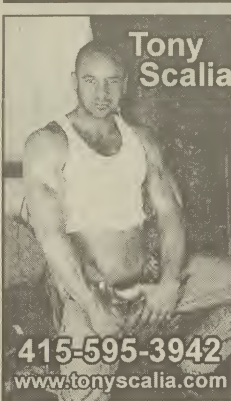
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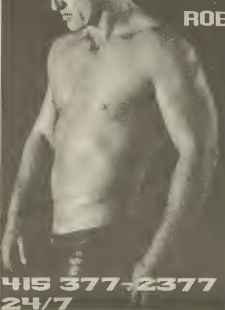
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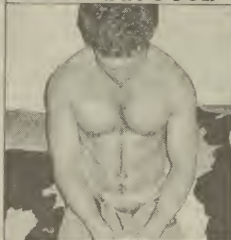
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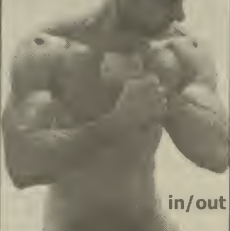
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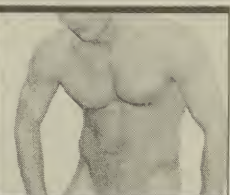
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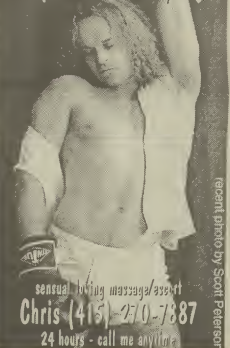


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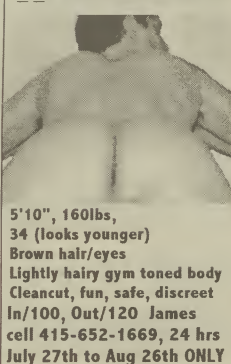
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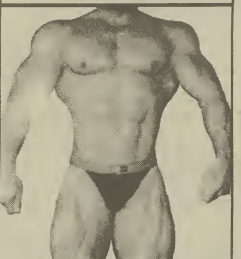
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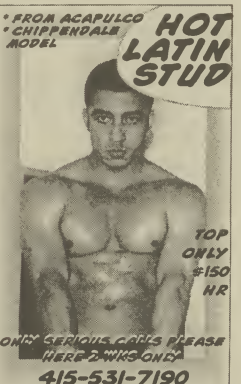


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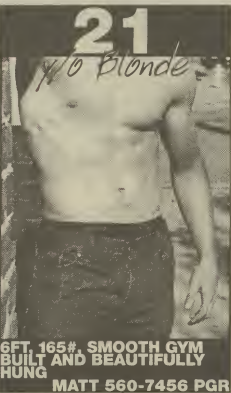
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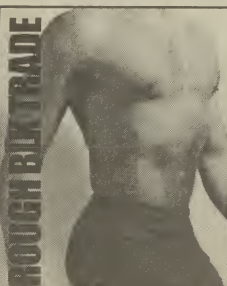
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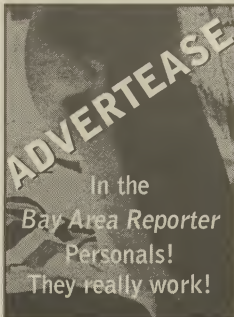
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The fact is, hepatitis *is* a very big deal. And men who have sex with men are at greater risk for hepatitis A and B. That's why the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends you get vaccinated to prevent these 2 serious diseases.

PROTECT YOURSELF! See your doctor about vaccination today. For referral to a gay-friendly physician near you, call GLMA at 1-877-LGBTDOC or visit our Web site at www.glma.org/hepatitis



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